

1st SURBITON GROUP

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH 2017

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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All,

May I first apologise for my absence at this year's AGM. Unfortunately I managed to pick up a serious illness on my recent visit to India and have been advised not to travel any distances for the next few months. This is my 12th year of producing the Group Accounts as Treasurer. However, as with last year, I am pleased to present this statement to the accounts with the Group finances continuing to be in a very robust state.

As with previous years it is worth re-stating these accounts are produced under a 'cash basis' rather than an accruals and prepayments basis which some would be more used to seeing.

This ensures the accounts are entirely transparent and where a profit or loss is made then this entirely represents a movement in cash to an equal amount. Charity accounts, such as ours, are prepared in this manner as they need to be visible to all in the most simple and unambiguous way. When we make profit we are generating cash and indeed, in years when we make a loss we are spending cash from our reserves.

It is also worth noting that, as has been the case for all of my 12 years as treasurer these accounts are independently audited by Tim Brown to ensure their validity and accuracy as per the Independents examiners report on page 5. Tim continues to provide this service at significantly less than market rate and has been auditor throughout my time as Group Treasurer. My thanks to him for this ongoing essential service.

Total net cash at the end of March 2017 for the Group was £56,221, an increase of **£7,077 from last year**. As in previous years the profit generated is driven primarily by the collection of Gift Aid (£8,759). We are now fully up to date with historic gift aid claims and only have this year's accounts to collect. The fact this has been possible owes much to John Ayles and Lynda Bennett but I will return to my thanks at the end of this statement.

Other revenue for the year remains static if you ignore the double Gift Aid payment in the year ended 31st March 2016. Hall Donations continue to be a very successful source of revenue on which we can make Gift Aid claims and again thanks to the leaders for the management of this service which generates these revenues. "My Donate" also continues to generate good revenues and again my thanks for the efforts that enable this collection.

Costs also remain relatively static although there are some variations in specific payments made. As highlighted in last year's accounts (and the minutes) we had two payments in respect of District membership last year because of the late payment of the charge for 2014 / 2015, actually paid in 2015 / 2016. In this year's accounts this has returned to one payment of £6,878. This charge is made on the total number of young people in the Group: the annual fee is charged directly to the Group based on the numbers declared on computerised systems.

If you deduct this double payment last year the total costs are almost identical albeit there is a difference in some of the allocation. Boating costs remains the highest expenditure with £10,853 spent on our boating activities compared to £10,113 in 2015 / 2016. This is consistent with the Group's decision to continue to support our water activities and upgrade our equipment where required. As highlighted in previous years it is important to highlight that the Scout and Explorer sections are actually supported financially by the other training sections due to the high costs involved with providing water activities. On their own, the Scouts and Explorers would not be able to support the costs of their activities.

Note 3 also shows the double payment for boat insurance this year. Again this is purely a timing difference and highlights these accounts being based on a cash basis rather than the accrual basis you may be more used to. Looking closer at Note 4 it is also worth noting the "write back" of £3,185. This relates to cheques written during the building of the headquarters that were not required. All costs have now been settled and therefore these cheques can be credited back to the accounts. For prudence it was considered sensible to wait this additional time to ensure we were not going to be charged this cost before crediting back. The Ravens Ait billing in the same note also continues to show some 'inconsistency' on timing but we continue to be fully flexible on payment and pay whenever requested and end this current year having paid in advance, up to the end of September 2017.

As stated at the beginning of this summary the Group's accounts are in fantastically robust health but I must continue to warn against complacency and will always continue to re-state that when I took over as treasurer we could not even pay our District membership. It is with this in mind I would like to conclude by thanking John for his continued support on the collection of Gift Aid, to Lynda Bennett and Ian Appleford. I am now based in the South West and not around that often. Without their collection of Gift Aid forms, arranging payment of subscriptions by standing order, arranging Hall bookings, cheque writing and receipt collection and their general assistance, the Group would quite simply not be on the stable footing it now finds itself. The whole Group continues to be indebted to their commitment and dedication to ensuring the financial strength of our Group.

I look forward to seeing you all next year and confirm that I am happy to stand for another year in office.

Yours in scouting

Matt Bennett (ACA, BA (ExHon)

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

CONSTITUTION

1st Surbiton "Sealion" Sea Scout Group is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 303763) and is constituted by a Royal Charter dated 4th January 1912 as amended by supplementary charters dated 28th March 1949, 18th February 1959, 5 May 1967 and 19th July 1991. The trustees present their Annual Report as under, together with the Annual Accounts as attached, for the year ended 31st March 2017. These have been prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Charities Act 2011.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The object of the charity is promoting the development of young people in achieving their full physically, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Group continues to be managed by the Group Executive Committee, comprising both lay and uniformed personnel. This Committee continues to carry out and co-ordinate fund raising activities, and maintains links with stakeholders, including the Local Authority, community, schools and Church.

The level of income, expenditure and year end financial position are broadly in line with the expectation of the Trustees. The Group is in an extremely healthy financial position, although we have now largely "caught up" with the gift aid owed. It is likely that income from this source will reduce in future years. We are now much closer to breaking even on income and expenditure, although significant investments continue to be made on boating equipment, to the extent that since 2010 over £75k will have been spent on the fleet. The income derived from gift aid and from subscriptions generally is wholly down to our strict overall control of our financial statements with the production of detailed monthly accounts and Lynda Bennett's organisation of income from Subscriptions and applications she has submitted for grants and awards. John and now James Ayles have also continued to provide invaluable help by submitting the claim for gift aid.

In the last 12 months we have continued to make investments in the headquarters: the front has been re-modelled to provide extra parking. We have also purchased miscellaneous camping equipment and other items.

The Group has continued to develop: it remains the second largest in the District, as reported elsewhere in these papers. We have children from outside the Group waiting to join virtually all sections once they become old enough, a situation likely to continue for the foreseeable future. We also have a waiting list from children outside the Group which are offered if vacancies arise, but priority for places is always given to ensuring we can offer transition between the training sections for our existing members. Each of the training sections has a very healthy number of members. We continue to provide a progressive programme through each of the age groups represented by the sections with the opportunity for a child aged nearly six to pass through the Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and eventually Explorer Scouts.

The development of the young people is provided through the training scheme and by them learning various skills and gaining badges to show that they have reached the required standard in the skill or achievement. There are now some seventy badges that the young people can gain during their time in the Group, a number to which increases have been recently announced.

The Group continues to run a series of activities for its own sections as well as taking part in a reducing number of activities provided by the District. Once again the Cub, Scout and Explorer sections either ran, or attended, very successful camps during the year. The Cubs joined the scouts

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

for a morning to experience boating on the Thames. The Beavers attended a District sleepover, undertook a full programme and attended activity days.

Finally the Group continues to pay rent for the continued use of Raven's Ait for its boating activities. The management arrangements for the island have changed recently but we continue to make regular payments for its use an item contained in the lease granted through the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, which we are very grateful for, and is an integral part of the success of the Scout and Explorer Scout sections of 1st Surbiton.

RESERVE POLICY

The Group Executive Committee's aim is to break even, covering all expenses and to have sufficient in reserve (£25,000 is our stated position) to cover wear and tear on equipment and to make sure we can cover any unexpected expense. We are able to comfortably exceed this situation.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have examined the major risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced to them to lessen such risks.

TRUSTEES

The Group Executive Members are as follows:

Ian Appleford
Warran Taylor
Anne Oram
Matthew Bennett
Andrea Miller
Lynda Bennett
Niloufer Byramji
Penny Blundell
David Weedon
Roger Jones
Dinyar Byramji
Shane Murphy
Caroline Ayles
Robert Holt

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year in view of it's size the charity is entitled to prepare accounts on the alternative receipts and payments basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

CHARITY CORRESPONDENT

Principal address:

Mr R C Jones
76 Alexandra Drive
Surbiton
Surrey KT5 9AF

ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Examiner:

Tim Brown ACA BA(Hons)
50 The Ridings
Surbiton
Surrey KT5 8HQ

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank plc

National Westminster Bank plc
10 Victoria Road
Surbiton
Surrey

Signed:

Roger C Jones

Group Executive Member

Matthew Bennett

Group Treasurer

Dated: 10th June 2017

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES/MEMBERS OF
1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the 1st Surbiton (Sealion) Sea Scout Group (Charity no. 303763) for the year ended 31st March 2017, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act,
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

(i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and

(ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Tim Brown BA(Hons) ACA
Chartered Accountant
50 The Ridings
Surbiton
Surrey KT5 8HQ

Dated: 10th June 2017

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

	Notes		2017	2016
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
				Total £
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions		37,651	-	37,651
Gift Aid (2016 - 2 years)		8,759	-	8,759
Activities to further the Charity's objectives		-	-	-
Donatons and Grants	1	6,354	-	6,354
Activities to generate funds	2	3,242	-	3,242
Bank Interest		45	-	45
TOTAL RECEIPTS		56,051	-	56,051
PAYMENTS				
Payments for generating funds		-	-	-
Charitable payments:				
Grants Paid for District Membership (2016 -2 years)		6,878	-	6,878
Charitable Activities	3	29,669	-	29,669
Support costs	4	7,066	-	7,066
Management and Administration	5	5,361	-	5,361
TOTAL PAYMENTS		48,974	-	48,974
NET RECEIPTS		7,077	-	7,077
Cash Funds as at 1st April 2016		49,144	-	49,144
Cash Funds as at 31st March 2017		56,221	-	56,221

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

					Unrestricted Funds £
CASH FUNDS					
National Westminster Bank plc					
	Current account				100
	Reserve Account				45,230
					<u>45,330</u>
	Outstanding Cheques				(1,566)
COIF Charities Deposit Fund					
					12,457
					<u>56,221</u>
		B/Fwd	Movement	Transfer	
Unrestricted Fund	General Fund	18,144	7,077	-	25,221
Designated Funds	Boats Fund	6,000	-	-	6,000
	Maintenance Fund	25,000	-	-	25,000
	Tent Fund	-	-	-	-
	Boats Fund	-	-	-	-
	Minibus Fund	-	-	-	-
		<u>49,144</u>	<u>7,077</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,221</u>

Liabilities

**Unrestricted Funds
£**

Independent Examiners Fee

205

205

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Roger C Jones

Group Executive Member

Dated : 10th June 2017

Matthew Bennett

Group Treasurer

1st SURBITON (SEALION) SEA SCOUT GROUP

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

Assets Retained for Charity's own use

New Headquarters	£	
Lease 99 years from St Andrew & St Marks PPC	2,500	
Expenditure 2009/10	10,693	
Expenditure 2010/11	35,113	
Expenditure 2011/12	609	
Expenditure 2013/14 - Work Stations etc	1,059	
Expenditure 2013/14 - Computer Room	1,836	
Write back expenditure	(3,185)	
	<u>48,625</u>	
	Cost	Book Value
	£	£
Equipment Inventory		
Brought Forward (Fully Depreciated)	15,248	-
Additions 2010/11	1,691	507
New van 2010/11	12,600	3,780
Additions 2011/12	610	244
Additions 2013/14 - Epson EB-925 LCD Projector	3,058	1,835
Additions 2013/14 - Stormhaven Tents etc	2,400	1,440
Additions 2013/14 - Patrol Dining Shelter	855	513
Additions 2013/14 - Contour Tables and Benches	1,075	645
Additions 2016/17 - Tents	730	657
Additions 2016/17 - Oars	773	696
Additions 2016/17 - Equipment	680	612
	<u>39,720</u>	<u>10,930</u>
Boat Inventory		
Brought Forward (Fully Depreciated)	24,270	-
Additions 2009/10	6,822	1,364
Additions 2010/11	21,499	6,450
Additions 2011/12	702	281
Additions 2012/13	8,196	4,098
Additions 2013/14	-	-
Additions 2014/15 - Whitewater Canoes	*1 8,903	6,232
Additions 2014/15 - Ribshop	*1 7,279	5,095
Additions 2014/15 - Other	*1 1,118	783
	<u>78,789</u>	<u>24,302</u>
	<u>118,509</u>	<u>35,232</u>

NOTES TO RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
RECEIPTS		
1 Donatons and Grants		
General Donations	339	790
My Donate	2,109	1,907
Hall Donations	2,906	1,120
Royal Borough of Kingston	500	-
Jack Petchey Awards	500	-
	<u>6,354</u>	<u>3,817</u>
2 Activities to generate funds		
Christmas Trees	635	637
Chessington Sleepover	1,810	-
Collection Boxes	-	69
Easy Fundraising	-	16
Group Raffle	-	300
Miscellaneous Income	450	420
Quiz Profit	-	1,737
RNLI and Childrens Day	-	25
Sale of Uniforms	347	570
	<u>3,242</u>	<u>3,774</u>

NOTES TO RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
PAYMENTS		
3 Charitable Activities		
Boat Expenses	10,853	10,113
Boat Insurance 2016/17	2,444	-
Boat Insurance 2017/18 (paid in advance)	2,492	-
Boats (added to asset register)	-	-
Equipment (items over £500 added to register)	2,183	232
Jamboree	-	-
Royal Kingston Cubs Chessington Sleepover	2,750	-
Scarves and Clothing	1,010	330
Scout Shop	2,225	2,500
Section Expenses		
Porpoise and Narwhal (Beavers)	960	960
Walrus (Cub-Scouts)	864	900
Dolphin (Cub-Scouts)	1,368	1,368
Troop (Scouts)	1,800	1,800
Explorers	720	720
	<u>5,712</u>	<u>5,748</u>
	<u>29,669</u>	<u>18,923</u>
4 Support costs		
New HQ Building (Write back of Expenditure)	(3,185)	-
HQ Expenses inc Maintenance	2,641	4,057
Furniture (added to register)		-
Minibus (Owned)	673	843
Minibus (RAKAT)(net of Section Contribution)	451	594
Commercial Vehicle Insurance	761	-
Ravens Ait Rent (1.1.15 to 30.9.15)	-	2,808
Ravens Ait Rent (year to 30.9.17)(30.9.16)	3,744	3,744
Utilities	1,981	2,471
	<u>7,066</u>	<u>14,517</u>
5 Management and Administration		
Donation	400	-
AGM	487	601
General Expenses	2,226	1,222
Independent Examiners Fees	190	175
Insurances (including Claim rec'd £663)	784	2,464
Telephone	681	613
Training	593	2,380
	<u>5,361</u>	<u>7,455</u>

1st Surbiton “Sealion” Sea Scout Group



Annual Report 2016/7 and AGM Papers

Saturday June 10 2017



Agenda for AGM, Saturday 10 June 2017

1. Welcome and opening remarks by the Chairman (David Weedon)
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGM
3. Treasurer's report (Matthew Bennett's report presented by David Weedon)
4. Approval of section reports for 2016 /17
5. Group Scout Leader's Report (Penny Blundell)
6. Approval of the GSL's nomination for Chairman for 2017 / 18
7. Approval of the Chairman's nomination for Hon. Treasurer
8. Approval of the Chairman's nomination for Hon. Secretary
9. Approval of the GSL's nominations for members of the Group Executive Committee for 2017 / 18
10. Election of parent representatives to the Group Executive Committee
11. Any other business
12. The District Commissioner
13. Presentation of awards
14. The Group President (Roger Jones)
15. Chairman's closing remarks

Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Apologies for absence were received from:

Roger Jones (Group President), Matthew Bennett (Treasurer), Louise Tuck (ACSL and AGSL), Matthew Fletcher (Group Executive Committee member), Ian Rowlands (ASL), Eileen Grainger, Tom Hunter (ASL), Tim Brown (Auditor), James Burge, (District Chairman) Bob Bushell, (District President)

Introduction and minutes of the previous meeting

Opening the proceedings, David Weedon, Group Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The draft minutes of the 2015 AGM circulated with the meeting papers were proposed by David Weedon and seconded by Penny Blundell. They were accepted as a true record.

Treasurer's report

Before presenting the Treasurer's report, the chair informed the meeting that the Treasurer (Matthew Bennett) was not able to attend as he was abroad on business. David wished to record thanks to Matthew for his work throughout not only this year preparing the accounts but over the years he has served the Group in this capacity.

He also wished to record thanks to John Ayles, Tim Brown and Lynda Bennett for their work in helping to ensure the finances of the Group were maintained in the excellent order seen in recent years.

It was pointed out that the Group accounts were cash accounts, not accrual accounts, and had been produced that way in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

There were no questions over the accounts from those present at the meeting: adoption of the accounts was proposed by Shane Murphy and seconded by Richard Beddingfield.

Section reports

The section reports had been distributed with the meeting papers. The chair thanked the section leaders for providing them.

There being no questions from those at the meeting, adoption of the Section reports was proposed by Sally Muxworthy and seconded by Dominic Toloui.

Group Scout Leader's report

Penny Blundell, Group scout leader, specifically welcomed all the parents who had attended the meeting. She explained that there are currently over 200 young people in 1st Surbiton who, over the last year had been involved in lots of adventurous activities with the group.

She encouraged people to read the section reports as it gave a sense of the wealth of activities and the talents of the children.

This year more time had been made available for the younger children to spend time on the river, something which they had all enjoyed. Penny considered it important that those in the junior sections benefitted from being introduced to activities on the water before they moved through to the senior training sections.

Penny reminded everyone present that 1st Surbiton was a Royal Naval recognised group, a source of pride for everyone involved in it: it was not known when we would next be inspected to see if we still met the exacting standard to retain this standing, but it was expected to be in Autumn 2017.

Penny provided an overview of the training that Leaders were expected to undertake to be considered qualified to run the training sections and take them camping (she explained they needed to obtain a nights away permit), and in the case of those running boating activities, the range of permits needed to take young people boating. All of this training needed to be undertaken in the leaders' own time. Penny also thanked Louise Tuck, the Assistant Group Scout Leader, for her support throughout the year, particularly on the training organisation.

Penny recorded special congratulations to Lynda Bennett on being awarded the "Silver Wolf", the highest adult award the Scout Association makes. She also recorded her thanks to Lynda for all the work she puts in to maintain the headquarters, arrange lettings and manage the waiting lists.

Penny reflected that it was a great testament to the group that many of the children starting in Beavers, going through Cubs, Scouts and Explorers become leaders. She pointed out that some of our current leaders started at 1st Surbiton and that some of the young people that have moved away from Surbiton have become leaders in other groups.

Penny thanked Eileen Granger, who had recently retired from helping at Dolphin Pack for all her years of service.

Penny recorded special thanks to Warran Taylor for his hard work on maintaining the boating fleet, undertaking many of the repairs and refurbishments of the boats himself as well as constructing storage facilities on Ravens Ait and making the upper part of the headquarters storage more accessible and attractive.

Speaking about fund raising, Penny listed several fund raising activities:

- The Great River race – this year 6 leaders had taken part - it was suggested that maybe more people should take part next year.
- The Explorer "Quizmas" event, which was again very successful
- The Christmas tree sales, with special thanks recorded to Martin Meacher for organising this.

Highlighting achievements in the training sections, Penny explained that the young people in the training sections had earned a significant number of badges, the most senior awards by section being listed in the Roll of Honour in the meeting papers.

Penny also explained that three leaders from the Group, Tom Hunter, Shane Murphy and Dominic Toloui attended the Japan World Jamboree in August 2015 as contingent leaders and International support team. Emmett Murphy and Jake Netherwood, two explorers were among the representatives from the County at the Jamboree and two explorers were part of an expedition to Japan.

Penny also congratulated Jon and Sally Bridger on the recent birth of their daughter Holly and Martin and Siobhan Meacher on the recent birth of their son. She felt that they were both safeguarding the future membership of our Beaver colonies some time in 2022.

Election of Committee members

The following appointments were made unanimously

Chairman

Nominated: David Weedon
Proposed by: Penny Blundell
Seconded by: Dinyar Byramji

Treasurer

Nominated: Matthew Bennett
Proposed by: David Weedon
Seconded: Ted Beddingfield

Secretary

Nominated: Anne Oram
Proposed by: David Weedon
Seconded: Warran Taylor

Parent/Community Representatives

Nominated: Niloufer Byramji
Proposed by: Penny Blundell
Seconded: Sally Muxworthy

Nominated: Caroline Ayles
Proposed by: Penny Blundell
Seconded: Sally Muxworthy

Nominated: Andrea Miller
Proposed by: Penny Blundell
Seconded: Sally Muxworthy

Matthew Fletcher and Warran Taylor had both stepped down from the Group Executive Committee to take out leader warrants. Both were thanked for their contribution to the Committee and for their decision to become leaders.

Other business

There were no items of other business raised.

The District Commissioner

David invited Neil Findlay, District Commissioner, to speak. Neil explained that 1st Surbiton was currently the second biggest Group in the District. He commended the group for all of its activities and for their support of the District such as the organisation of District events such as the cub swimming gala, sports day and at recent St. George's day services.

Neil made the following awards:

- Jack Petchey Awards to Gabriel Manning and Elliot Ogles

-
- The Warry award for endeavour to Gabriel Manning, Gabriel being one of the first recipients of this new award
 - 5 year service awards to Ian Rowlands, Dominic Toloui and Charlie Muxworthy
 - A 15 year service award to Louise Tuck
 - A 20 year service award to Sheila Traynor

Chairman's Closing Remarks

The chairman presented flowers to Julie Finlay, the DC's wife who had accompanied him. He observed that 1st Surbiton was a strong group that enjoyed great support staff: he specifically mentioned Geoff Bennett and Russ Taylor who clean the HQ every Tuesday and to Ted Beddingfield and Andrew Burns for their time spent helping put events together and helping to organise the Royal Navy inspection. In closing the meeting he also recorded his congratulations to HRH Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her 90th birthday today. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2016/17

Chairman's report

Looking back on the previous year, I'm very pleased to be able to report that the Group remains in very good shape: we are still in an extremely healthy financial state, the headquarters building is being cleaned and maintenance tasks are being undertaken, we've also run some fund-raising through our participation in

- The Great River Race – This year we entered a boat crewed by members of the Exec and older Leaders and raised over £2500 – Thanks to all those who sponsored us. Not wishing to open any wounds but those of us in the “older” boat would like to remind those in the slower “younger” boat in 2015 that sometimes experience wins!
- Sheila Traynor, Asst Cub Leader with “Dolphin” (Thursday) Cubs has once again organised the collection of Sainsburys “Active Kids” vouchers from all members of the group, a scheme which has provided kitchen equipment, games and camping equipment
- Lynda Bennett continues to organise letting out the headquarters for parties for children of Primary school age and below

I shall leave Penny to describe the activities of the training sections, but from our oversight as the Group Executive, we have waiting lists, for the most part we have sufficient leaders covering our training sections although we know that Louise Tuck will be leaving us this summer, which is going to leave Walrus short of warranted leaders.

One point of governance that the Group Executive oversee is the administration of the Group - Penny has been very busy working with others in the leadership team ensuring that, for instance, DBS clearances are current for all leaders, the equipment is insured and that the leadership team have appropriate training and certification for the roles they perform. The Group's records have now moved to computer packages - “On-line Scout Manager” holds details of the members, and this is used to a greater or lesser degree by all of our training sections, and once fully available the “Compass” system provided by the movement will contain the appointment and training details of the leadership team, and ultimately the members of each of the training sections, although we can't put a timescale on this.

Our current level of resourcing means that we are able to continue maintain our boating fleet, (a large expense). This year we have created a boating sub-committee which has developed a multi year plan to both maintain and improve the equipment and options for Scouts on the water.

Being a Sea Scout Group means considerable expense on the “infrastructure” items such as rent for the boating base, which is centred on Raven's Ait. The Island remains an area of concern and focus for both the Executive & Leaders. The overall lease and running of the Island is once again looking likely to change hands and we need to ensure that our interests are catered for in whatever the final decisions are.

Although we can provide the funds for the work, it often comes down to having the knowledge of the boats and the skills to work on them to do what's necessary to keep the fleet in a seaworthy condition, and for that advice and his practical work on a number of boats, we are indebted to Warran Taylor for his leadership and knowledge in this area.

This year we have continued to develop the fleet, and have added a number of kayaks to allow more Scouts to be on the water at once, as well as ensuring that we have enough for Leaders and Explorers to use without having to rely on leaders having their own equipment.

As a group we have increased the number of opportunities for the Beavers and Cubs to experience activities on the river. In a way moving from Cubs to Scouts is of similar magnitude to moving from Primary to Secondary School but the Scout "school" is very different in the Summer and at Camp. Exposure to river activities will hopefully make transitions as stress free and smooth as possible going forward

The Cub section celebrated their first century with a sleepover in a field attached to Chessington World of Adventures and we were able to subsidise this for each cub going, as it was a one-off event and expense for something we hoped as many as possible would take up the option of going to.



Over a series of working weekends last summer saw the front of the Headquarters re-modelled, providing up to two additional car-parking spaces, which has been welcomed by all the leaders. A working weekend organised by Tom Holt of the Group Executive Committee saw the front of the building tidied up, cleaning tasks undertaken and a large quantity of rubbish taken to the tip - a great assistance to all users of the building.

One other anniversary that needs to be noted for this year, (apart from the Beaver section celebrating 30 years, the Cubs celebrating 100 last year), this year, Roger Jones, the Group President, turned 80. Yet he's still an active member of the Group Executive, provides insight and advice at all levels of the Group and without whom we are unlikely to have the building this meeting is taking place within. Congratulations, Roger.

As a Group Executive, we are very fortunate in having support from the leadership team, with whom we continue to work very closely - can I take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution, whether the main "front of house" highly visible roles they perform or other tasks which are just as essential but may not grab the headlines. Like so many successful undertakings, and I continue to view this as a small business, it's the sum of the parts that makes up the whole.

We are looking to purchase another vehicle to aid in both transporting more children and equipment in the near future – If anyone knows or hears of a long wheelbase transit/minibus/transporter that would suit please let me know.

David Weedon
Group Chairman

Group Scout Leader's report

This year has been an exceptional year for Sealion. Numbers remain high in all sections and the waiting list, and we are again the second largest group in the District. This reflects the varied and challenging programme that all sections run and the fun that young people continue to have as they progress through scouting.



This year has been unusually exciting. The St George's Day parade last April was well attended and the group enjoyed marching with the bands. We were delighted to be awarded the Bridger Trophy for the best group attending. Gabriel Manning, one of our scouts and now an explorer, was also awarded the Margaret Warry Award for Endeavour.

2016 was the 'Cubs 100' celebration for the centenary of cub scouting. Both packs enjoyed a range of activities. In October, they joined with packs from across

the District for

a sleepover at Chessington World of Adventures. Sadly, the weather was very wet, particularly on the Saturday, but that did not lessen the fun of the rides and visit to the animals at dusk. However, the memory that will last, (as with the exceptionally wet Millennium camp), is the wet camping and sleeping in marquees which did not lessen the fun! Later in the year the packs went to Snakes & Ladders for a party, complete with candles on the cake, and renewed their promises.



July saw the National Sea Scout Regatta held on the Thames and as always we were well represented by both scouts and explorers. However, this year we got five trophies and won the overall regatta – a success we intend to repeat this year! As part of developing scouts boating they stayed on the river until November – rowing in the dark and completing the coca-cola challenge!

The renewed boating fleet has not only benefitted the older sections. Beavers and cubs had two Saturday mornings out on the river and, not only had fun, but gained badges and the skills that put them in a good position to enjoy boating as scouts.

Scouting is closely identified with camping and all sections have had overnight experiences this year. For many six and seven year olds the District Beaver sleepovers are their first time sleeping away from family and it is a challenging experience sleeping in a hall with thirty or more other beavers – so that few sleep well, even after a day of activities outside and a camp fire. At the other end of the age range are the explorers who, as a District unit have taken part in a number of activities with other units – including their summer camp in Wales, hill walking in Snowdonia and the 'Red Flare' district challenge.

In this report, I can't do justice to all the activities undertaken by the group but please read the individual section reports available with these papers.

All these activities are the result of an innovative, experienced and trained team of leaders and Sealion is exceptional in having a large number of leaders with the necessary skills. We are pleased to congratulate Roger Jones who recently celebrated his 80th birthday and continues to work with the group, and at the other end of the age spectrum we welcome Stanley Meacher and Logan Traynor, who with fathers as Dolphin leaders we hope will follow in their footsteps. However, training, required by the Scout Association, does require time and effort in addition to that given directly to the young people. As reported last year Louise became Assistant Group Scout Leader and took on responsibility for leading the training, with the District Training Officer –

Jackie Paddon. I am pleased to report that five leaders have gained their 'wood badges', four have done additional training to reflect additional roles and a further four have trained as sectional assistants. Several others have made significant progress and hope to complete their training next year. As a sea scout group additional leaders with boating responsibilities have to gain and maintain boating permits and training in this area is going well with a particular aim of junior section leaders gaining permits to allow them to take out their sections without relying on the scout leaders.

Experienced leaders have been recognised for their continuing contribution - Martin Meacher received the Award for Merit in November, Rory Traynor has been awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for good service and Lynda Bennett received the Mayor's Community Award. Many leaders are involved in activities outside the Group: I would particularly mention the Cub leaders who organise District cub events – five a side football, sports day and the swimming gala. I would like to thank all the leaders for all their hard work during the year but I would particularly like to highlight two: Louise for her encouragement and support to leaders particularly on training and who will sadly be moving to Lancashire soon and the contribution made by Warran Taylor who, in addition to being a regular part of the scout troop leadership team, has again undertaken a huge amount of work on maintaining the fleet.

Can I take this opportunity of asking parents and friends to continue to support the group in any ways that they can – we are fortunate in having good leaders but support with particular activities is appreciated – preparing for and following camps (leaders have given up a week or more of their time), preparing for boating on Raven's Ait or helping to maintain our HQ. In particular, we are looking for offers to support the group by becoming a member of the executive committee.

Penny Blundell

Group Scout Leader

Section reports

Beavers: Narwhal and Porpoise Colonies

In April we had an impressive turn out of Beavers for the St. Georges Day Parade, all looking smart and showing off their best behaviour. Back at Headquarters we worked on the Music Badge, having some wonderful guest musicians, learnt traditional and silly campfire songs and generally made lots of noise.

Our next badge was Emergency Aid, Stage 1, beginning with making Doctor's outfits out of T-shirts before learning the recovery position, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and then let them loose with bandages and slings. I hope you all feel much safer at home! We ran a session on water and water safety, leading up to a taster session boating on the Thames. We greatly appreciate the effort the Scout Leaders put into these sessions. Two of our leaders have been doing boating training, so hopefully we can return the favour sometimes.

In May we took 12 Beavers to the District Sleepover at Polyapes Campsite, Cobham. All those attending gained their Outdoor Challenge badge by learning to set fires, pack rucksacks, follow trails and put up tents and many other activities.. We ended the day with a traditional campfire, including silly songs, and an exciting treasure hunt by torchlight. They were all so tired they managed to go to sleep quickly. In the morning the wonderful district team cooked breakfast, but the Beavers had to do their own washing up outside. Thanks to all the District Leaders for running the sleepovers and other District events.



After half-term we went into space, with the help of scout parent Colin Philp, a member of the British Interplanetary Society and ended the summer with a Beach party.

During the summer we visited Dolphin Cub Pack camp at Walton Firs. They made us feel very welcome. Visiting a Cub Camp gives the Beavers an opportunity to see what camp life is like before they go up to Cubs. Activities include making fires and toasting marshmallows, building bivouacs, bug-hunting and making suitable homes for insects, archery, wide games and pioneering. Thank you, Dolphin Leaders.



Back at HQ we concentrated on some basic scouting themes for the Communicator Badge, learning about simple map reading and semaphore signals. We worked out where key points in Surbiton were and wrote and posted cards and then brought it up to date with email and mobile skills (and yes, some of them knew more than me). We had a good turn out for the Surbiton Festival, the Beavers behaving very well despite the waiting around at the beginning.

Our older Beavers joined others at 6th Tolworth to learn about exploring and all Beavers were invited the District Party with new entertainment this year (something the Beaver Leaders appreciated.)

When we first started working with the new Disability Awareness badge we were worried about how to work with such a serious topic without making it too serious, Beavers is supposed to be fun, but I think we managed using ping-pong balls to learn about Braille, we learnt how to sign the Promise and linked to the recent and wonderful Paralympics for inspiration. Recreating some of the games was challenging at times (Murder ball with 24 Beavers, anyone?)



We finished the term with a traditional Christmas party and slideshow of the year, thanks Shere Khan.

New Year started with a trip to the District pantomime at 1st Hook, which was much better than the previous year's, the highlight being the collapse of the scenery, leading to an early intermission and a glimpse of the Dame without her/his wig. Badges earned included Healthy Eating, Health and Fitness and Fitness Challenge. We also did some fundraising by doing odd jobs, not bob-a-job anymore but along the same lines. This all seemed a bit too sensible so we made up for it by having a Comic Relief Party where we were all very silly indeed. With our odd jumps and donations made at the party we raised £112.

1st Surbiton Beavers continue to go from strength to strength, with both colonies full. We couldn't do this without a great team. Many thanks to all those who give up their time to help the Beavers, including Lucy (Anne), Reepicheep (Penny), Frank (Simon), Bree (Karen), Moonwood (Priya), Shere Khan (Ian), our young helpers Tarva (Ella), Nikabrik (Milly), and Luke and occasional helpers Emma and Vanessa. We couldn't manage without you. We are



always looking for new helpers and leaders across the sections, so if you would like to know more do speak to one of the team. There are spaces for occasional helpers and those who might like to become warranted leaders.

The Beaver Leaders

Walrus Pack Report

Well another year has gone by ... so what has Walrus Pack been up to?

We began the year as usual by preparing for and taking part in our annual St George's Day Parade when the whole District meets together to celebrate Scouting's patron saint and to renew our promises. The ironing and rolling of scarves and sewing on badges paid off and Walrus Pack looked very smart. During this term we worked towards the Disability Awareness badge which included meeting Megan and her assistance dog Ruby, trying out being in a wheelchair, and learning some sign language. The Cubs also had the exciting opportunity to Kip On A Ship – a sleepover on HMS Belfast in London. They had the chance to sleep in the dormitories the sailors once used and to explore the ship and find out about its life. We also went for a journey across the Thames on the cable car.



We took part in the District 5-a-side Football Competition and the District Sports Day. The Cubs who competed did a good job representing Walrus Pack and enjoyed taking part. We were



fortunate enough to be invited to have a taster session of boating with the Scouts – a chance to see what awaits them in the Scout Troop. The Cubs always enjoy this and thanks to the Scout Leaders for arranging it. We spent a few evenings at the park playing sports, working towards the Athletes badge, and going on an activity hike. Our final meeting of the term was spent tent pitching, practising packing a bag, and making ballistas to get us in the mood for what is always a highlight of the year, our Summer Camp. Our joint Summer Camp with 2nd Hook Hawk Pack



is always a great event and this year activities included making and racing teddy chariots, cooking lunch, lighting a fire, archery, bingo, going for a hike, swimming, AirHop, assault course, crate stacking, caving, camp fire, crafts, horse racing, and of course the old favourite washing up.

The autumn term kicked off with team challenges and learning new skills. We also joined the rest of the group in the Surbiton Festival Parade. In October we had the chance to join many other Royal Kingston District Cubs at a sleepover at Chessington World of Adventures. This gave the Cubs two days in the adventure park and a sleepover on their camp site, and was part of the Cubs

100 birthday celebrations to mark 100 years of Cub Scouts. Other pack evenings included a spooky night, indoor caving, swimming, and crafts. Another fun evening was the return of the Walrus Bake Off with the sixes competing against each other for the much coveted wooden spoons for the winners. Each six has the same ingredients and equipment and has a set time to produce the required items, testing their preparation and cooking skills and ability to organise themselves to achieve this within the time limit. In November we went to watch the Lord Mayor's Show in London followed by a sleepover at the headquarters and then went to take part in the Remembrance Parade on the Sunday morning at the War Memorial in Surbiton. On Friday 16th December, the day that Cub Scouting first began 100 years before, we joined up with Dolphin Pack and 2nd Hook Hawk Pack at Snakes & Ladders for a fun evening playing together, stopping in the middle for a joint Grand Howl and renewal of our promises, and a tea which included Cub birthday cake.



Moving into the spring term in the New Year we had a go at several activities to complete the Scientist Badge. These included growing cress, how vinegar reacts with other items, building marshmallow and spaghetti towers (fun but messy),



balloon rockets, hot air balloons, and making a compass. We also split the Pack to gain either the Road Safety or Fire Safety badge which included a walk out trying different road crossings and finding road signs or a visit to the



fire station. The work covered in the Road Safety badge also resulted in a couple of hilarious 'public information sketches' on crossing the road and how to behave safely as a passenger in a car. Other evenings have included making pancakes, a craft for Mothers' Day, swimming, secret codes, and Easter egg activities. We also went on a Pack Holiday to Polyapes in Oxshott where the Cubs were challenged to complete various challenges over the day whilst looking after an egg! Only two eggs made it to the end of the day but it gave them something to think about.

During this year we have been lucky enough to welcome another two members to our leadership team, Robin and Shannon, who seem to have settled in well with Walrus and are proving to be a great help. Big thanks to Jai and Jai, two Scouts who answered our call for help and have been coming down to help regularly ever since, getting stuck in to whatever we ask them to do. My grateful thanks as always go to Louise and Joe who do so much to help deliver such an interesting and varied programme to our Cubs. They are there every week, and also for several weekends and planning meetings, to ensure that Walrus Pack can achieve so much and has fun doing it.

Sue Oakes, Akela
March 2017

Words by Sue
Pictures by Louise

Dolphin Pack Annual Report 2016/7

Foreword by Akela

It's been a memorable year, in some cases for all the wrong reasons. As you'll see when you read this report, there have been tremendous highs and incredible lows.

Before the main report starts, can I thank my leaders for their continued dedication and support of Dolphin Pack - Sheila Traynor, Martin Meacher, Pauline Meacher and Ian Appleford and Cole Mulkerrins (who's currently doing the service element of his DoE award with us), as the "regular staff" supplemented by Rory Traynor and Matthew Maginnis (now away at University, but who helps when he can), Peter Fowler, often on loan from 2nd Hook and Alex Marley, who helps when required and if he's available. Thank you all - nothing would be possible without you. Although he's tried to remove it from the rest of the AGM proceedings, Shere Khan, (Ian Appleford) was notified in February this year that he had been awarded the Bar to the Silver Acorn, the second highest award the Scout Association gives to adults in the movement.



In December we celebrated 100 years of Cub Scouting, clearly a once-in-a-lifetime event, marked in both the autumn with a sleepover at Chessington World of Adventures and on the day itself in December at Snakes and Ladders. Writing this report in the middle of 2017, we're still doing very well - we're reporting competition successes in this report, we have a full pack, there's a demand for any places we can offer, and we're providing a wide range of activities in a balanced programme for the young people in Dolphin Pack. There is, however, quite clearly a change in the way that cubs will operate within Royal Kingston District. There have been no District Cub events since November 2016, and no District St George's Day Parade for

2017 either, something announced during the period covered by this report. Events (and even District coordination meetings for the leaders) have been cancelled with, so far at least, nothing to replace them. Having run the Pack for over 40 years now I can say that this is the first time in that period I have seen this situation. The District magazine has been discontinued, so if you don't follow Facebook or Twitter, you may not see all the events undertaken reported and it's certainly not possible to send the latest magazine home with the cubs. So it's very difficult to be able to predict how the cub landscape will change in the future and what we'll be reporting on this time next year. We're not against change - far from it, but it has to move everyone forward rather than just be an empty programme, and part of the whole Cub experience is seeing that you're one of several hundred Cubs in the locality, rather than just a member of a Pack of about 40. But read on....

Lynda Bennett

Akela - Cub Scout Leader, Dolphin Pack

In April, we took part in the annual District St George's Day parade service, which, although we didn't know it at the time, is very likely to have been the last one of that format of service we'll see in Royal Kingston District. If you've never seen one of these events, it's a parade of the whole District from the Adult Education Centre at the junction of King Charles's Road and Hollyfield Road, followed by a brief service at Our Lady Immaculate church, the only one large enough in the area to take the District membership and a parade back. In the past the parade back has been along the Ewell Road, but in recent years it's involved returning the same way. But with over 1000 beavers, cubs, scouts explorers and leaders, with all the flags and bands in the parade, it was a great spectacle, fantastic to be a part of and memorable. We had a very good turnout this time, which hopefully contributed to the Group winning the Bridger family trophy for the smartest group on parade for only the second time in its history. Joe Waddington did a great job of carrying the Dolphin Pack flag.

Last year was also the Queen's 90th birthday. Having made a suggestion as to how we could get everyone in the District attending St George's Day to contribute to a card for The Queen, I was given the job of organising it. Each section of each Group, plus visitors and dignitaries had a sheet to sign, which ultimately became combined into something like a book of signatures rather than a true birthday card. Think of it as a cross between a birthday card and a petition! It was teamed with a cover handmade by Bagheera. It contained just shy of 1000 signatures. Our friends in Mailboxes in Surbiton "drilled" it so it could be combined and fastened with a ribbon. It was duly sent to HRH in time for her official birthday. We heard nothing about it until October, when we received what appears to be a personally written letter from one of HRH's ladies in waiting, thanking us for the "card" and the good wishes conveyed to HRH from all in Royal Kingston District. Accepted, HRH must have had hundreds of cards last year, but I just hope that because it was different, one of her office team actually put it in one of her correspondence boxes, and so she really did see it herself. There's a video of the "card" on the District Facebook page, but as anything I post is typically left in the "visitor posts" part of the site, hardly anyone has acknowledged seeing it. But have a look on the entrance hall wall in the HQ to the right of the door and you'll see a framed letter and acknowledgement card from The Palace thanking us all for our good wishes.

May saw us both organising and taking part in the District 5-a-side football competition. We took the opportunity to enter 2 teams, one called Dolphins, the other Sealions. It was a close competition, but the Dolphins couldn't make the knockout stage. Sealions did, but they couldn't progress further - however, like all cub events, it was a chance for them to experience playing in an organised competition in front of vocal and committed support! It really is all about the experiences and occasions.



May also saw us going out on the river in boats courtesy of the Scout leaders who gave up a Saturday morning to take the Pack out to experience boating on the Thames. One or two of the cubs had the full baptismal experience, but they didn't appear to be any the worst for it - in fact they even seemed to enjoy it!

In June, it was the Group's AGM. The attendance from parents from all sections within the Group was frankly poor, but Bagheera received her 20 year service award from the District Commissioner and one of our past cubs, Elliott Ogles, now in the scout troop, received a Jack Petchey award.

You remember I said about highs and lows throughout this year? June 9 2016 saw Martin Meacher, a leader with the Pack, a former Dolphin cub and previously Asst. District Commissioner for Cub Scouts, (and an indisputable character), along with his wife Siobhan welcome God's gift of a son, Stanley Edward Meacher, to the world, a brother to his sister Ava, now 2 years old.

During June, we always aim to select our best athletes to represent the Pack at the District sports day competition, another event we run. It took place once again at the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground at Imber Court, who always look after us very well. The format of the event has evolved over the two decades we've been running it, but the idea is that a small number of cubs (4 under and 4 over 9 1/4) will allow you to enter all the events, but you can bring any number in excess of that, which is what we try to do - we like to involve as many as we can. Some of the individual performances in this competition were memorable - watching Pip Cinpoes on the stilts lets him



demonstrate a combination of impressive speed and intimidation as he headed down the course at about warp factor 3. The combination of all of our runners, egg and spooners, bouncers and field athletes saw us able to retain the trophy for a further year. Well done to all of our athletes.

July sees the end of the summer term. Our last evening of the term normally involves us taking the Cubs out. This time we went to White Spider in Tolworth for some indoor climbing. A number of them attended and were instructed in how to get to the top of the challenging, typically vertical walls found there. It's also always incredibly hot in there, despite the walls all being open to improve air



flow. All the cubs seem to need a shower by the time they've been climbing. I bet they all slept well, though.

The highlight of the cub year is the annual summer camp. 5 days may sound a long time, but when the programme is full of activities, including cooking, cricket and football competitions, awardwork, a day-long visit from the Beavers and a day trip out, we couldn't do everything we need to in less. It passes in what seems to be a flash. This year, for the first time for years, we went to Walton Firs, ie back to where we camped last year - normally we aim to go to a different site so in a typical cub "career" they don't always go to the same site to camp - our typical alternate site, Runways End in Farnborough, not being available owing to building problems, hence the second successive camp at Walton Firs. It was also a memorable camp as it was dry! The last two camps had seen us living in wellingtons and waterproofs, but at this one we only used coats when it got cold - and it made such a difference to how much we can achieve and how much easier it is to organise activities. as part of the camp, we took the cubs to Paultons Park, (which is on the road to Salisbury). Many of them hadn't been there before, and it has the benefit of not only being a very good day out, but having rides that virtually any cub can go on unsupervised. Paultons Park had also clearly made some serious investments, recently having opened new rides and a new "dinosaur" theme, which made it even better.

We had a very good time and achieved what we set out to. Teddy Brewer took home the "camper of the year" award with the runners - up being Finn Beesley-Roach and Harry Foster. As always our thanks to Peter Fowler of 2nd Hook who comes to camp with us and whose help, along with that provided by Penny Blundell, is invaluable. Also thanks to Sally Muxworthy, Debbie Harvey and Moira Greenfield (an ex parent) who helped with the cooking: their help is also much appreciated.

When the "normal" cub programmes resumed in September, we had a second session on the water courtesy of the scout leaders. More of the cubs went in the water than we would have wanted to, but overall those who went reported having enjoyed it and they typically passed, or

added badges for time spent on the water once we'd added some instruction in water safety to support the mix.

In September the lowest point of the year happened. Rob Traynor, Bagheera's husband and Little Roars's father, died suddenly following a massive stroke. Although not really known to the cubs or to any outside the Dolphin pack leadership team, his loss was a huge shock and remains keenly felt.

In September we also took part in the Surbiton Festival: this is a much less formal parade than the St George's Day Parade - we walk through the town centre as a group to show we're part of the community. We had a good turnout and we seemed to be well received by everyone.

In October, we took part in a District sleepover at Chessington World of Adventures. This was a special event to mark the 100 years of cub scouting (Wolf Cubs, their original name, started in December 1916). This event was organised by one of the leaders from 3rd Kingston, and was something we felt would be memorable. Rain was predicted for the first day. Warran Taylor, one of the scout leaders, led the tent pitching - we used a marquee to sleep all the cubs in, Walrus as well as Dolphin cubs, something we wouldn't normally do, but the time didn't allow for more tents to be pitched. That marquee was promptly used as a makeshift headquarters for everyone coming onto site as it was the only area under cover when the parents arrived in the (by then) pouring rain - something that stayed with us virtually continually throughout that first day. Royal Kingston District cubs took over the Chessington unlimited pizza and pasta buffet for dinner that evening, which was memorable! The rain eased overnight but it limited things we could do that evening. The following day the weather improved and overall, I have to say it was a good camp, but having the word "sleep" in "sleepover" is something of a misnomer.



During October we ran a session at a swimming pool to allow the cubs to pass their swimmers badges as well as help us select a team to represent the pack in the District swimming gala. We also ran a games afternoon at the headquarters during the half term week and did the community badge.



At the end of one of the pack meetings in November, the District President, Bob Bushell came to the meeting and presented Kaa, Martin Meacher with a much-deserved Award for Merit. As many of those reading this report will know, Martin was Asst. District Commissioner for cub scouts in the District, and one of his many achievements was organising the very successful "X" camp in 2014 to mark the 10th anniversary of Royal Kingston District's formation.



November saw us packing up shoeboxes that would serve as Christmas presents for children in the developing world. Akela and Bagheera look for all sorts of bargain items during the year - colouring pencils, hats, scarves and gloves, toys and all sorts of other "goodies" that are commonplace to us but perhaps something a child in some areas of central Europe can only dream of. The cubs wrote cards and postcards to accompany the gifts and the boxes that left us that evening looked really good.

Akela attended the annual scout thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey in early November, an event restricted to high award holders (Akela has the "Silver Wolf", the highest award the Scout Association makes to adults) are invited to.

Also in November was the District Swimming Gala. This took place at Cheam Baths and followed the now familiar pattern of races. As with the sports day in June, there were some memorable performances in this event. Pip Cinpoes, once again, entered the water in the last leg of the 4 length relay with the team in 5th place. I figured he'd overtake the cub about 10 yards in front, but in practice with, I suspect, something close to his personal best, he finished the length in first place, overtaking a cub who was over half-way up the

baths at the time he entered the water that length. We achieved a highly respectable 2nd place overall.

The formal celebration of 100 years of Cub Scouting took place in December - cubs actually started on December 16th 1916. So we celebrated on December 16 at 16 minutes past 7 - i.e., 19:16. We joined up with 2nd Hook and Walrus Pack, in the absence of a District event being organised (we had offered to run one) for an evening at Snakes and Ladders at Syon House in Brentford. We therefore had about 90 cubs



doing Grand Howl at once, the largest grand howl to mark 100 years in the District, and then re-affirmed our promises. It was a good evening. 1 parent from each pack made the cakes with an edible "Cubs 100" emblem on them. Mrs Pooley-Hogan kindly baked those from Dolphin Pack.



In January we resumed our normal meetings. We staged our usual audio-visual show of all the major events the cubs had undertaken in the preceding 12 months. At the same event we also presented our Cub of the Year awards - the top award going jointly

to Joe Brown and Teddy Brewer and runner up to Toby Flynn and Marcus Ashby. Special achievement awards went to Conor Pooley-Hogan and Harry Cowan.

Also in January it was announced that Little Roars (Rory Traynor) had been awarded the Chief Scout's commendation for good service. We don't see that much of Little Roars these days as he now lives a complicated commuting distance away. Little Roars and his other half also had one of the highs of the year in February - the birth of Logan Robert Traynor, their first child and Bagheera's first grandchild. The bittersweet point here being his grandfather would not be able to

make his acquaintance. Little Roars receiving this commendation means that every warranted leader in the Pack now holds an award from the Scout Association.

Also in January we did the entertainer's badge - the cubs acted out scenes from pantomimes and took part in other items to qualify for the badge.

The February half-term saw us doing a half-term activity at the Headquarters which included looking at the cubs' hobbies and collections in order for them to pass the Hobbies and collectors badges, along with a range of games.

Also in February, we invested three new Cubs - nothing unusual in that really - except that they were Lucas Orchard, Tom Guest - and Erin Smith - the first time we've invested a girl into Dolphin Pack.



The only County level event for cubs these days is a quiz: although every Pack in the District is offered the chance to take part, Dolphin Pack was the only one to enter a team to represent Royal Kingston in it. Our team - Harry Cowan, Toby Flynn, Harry Reisner, Casper Blakeway, Archie Altun and Ieuan Mapp showed their mettle in a Pack level quiz and learnt some key facts about Scouting and other items subsequently, and came third place overall in the competition - our congratulations to them all.



In March we went on our Pack Holiday - the main difference between this and the summer camp being that everyone slept indoors. Having missed out on a camp at Runway's End in Farnborough last summer, we hired their indoor accommodation for a two-night pack holiday. We did the air activities badge because obviously, being Farnborough it has all the facilities we need. We managed to arrange for a tour of Farnborough Airport and a special tour of the Farnborough Aerospace Science Trust ("FAST") Museum. At Farnborough airport we got to take the mini-buses onto the main runway. Martin was told by

our guide to "drive along it as fast as you can". Ever tried that in a mini-bus restricted to 62mph? The cubs also actually all got to sit in the cockpit of a Harrier jump jet at FAST. Some of them have now had an explanation of how to fire sidewinder missiles from its controls, which I find a bit worrying! Apart from the air activities badge, they also did archery, air rifle shooting a camp fire, saw a film and played a number of games. We were not only blessed with dry weather for this camp, it was actually very warm for March!

Also in March, Akela, who has been with the Pack for some 42 years and its leader for about 35, was awarded a richly deserved Mayor's Community Award at the Guildhall by the Mayor in person.





So there we have it: 2016/17. A number of memorable events throughout the year, some good, some not and clearly facing major changes for the future.

Ian Appleford

"Shere Khan" - Asst Cub Scout Leader

Sealion Troop Report

The troop had a very successful planned, and on some occasions, unplanned eventful year, but first a few facts.

- We currently have 56 scouts 15 girls and 41 boys.
- We meet 42 Friday evenings, plus 7 days at summer camp and two weekend camps every year.
- Of those weeks we spend approximately 30 weeks meeting at Ravens Ait (our boating base) and 12 weeks at the HQ (our land base) on Electric Parade.
- Every year there are 20 plus leaders/helpers involved with organising, running the troop's events/meetings and maintain our fleet.

This year we crammed a variety of activities and badge work in our two and half hour meetings. The scouts learned new cooking skills, managed to put together Airfix plane / tank models in one evening, participated in fun games and absolutely exhausted themselves with wide games at the park and in Oxshott woods.

In July last year the scouts teamed up for what turned out to be the most successful national Regatta in years, we won so many trophies that Sealion won the overall trophy.

Summer camp took us to Amsterdam. Due to unplanned and unforeseen circumstances the scouts got stuck at the French border for 24 hours. Because we have a bunch of incredible, fantastic kids, they endured the journey in high spirits and once they arrived in Amsterdam, made camp a huge success.

We also attempted successfully to improve the overall swimming level of all our scouts and they completed 3 weeks of kayaking skills at Hampton open air pool.

In November last year the scouts hiked to Polyapes camp site in Oxshott, stayed for 2 nights and improved their overall survival skills. Subsequently in March the scouts' survival skills were tested at Boidierhurst scout site, where they stayed overnight in their hand made bivouacs, and yes, it was very cold. They also succeeded in passing their penknives, axe, cooking on open fire skills.

Led by Warran Taylor, the fleet has seen a continuous refurbishment throughout the autumn, winter and spring months. Some investment and maintenance has been made too. We bought new kayaks, repairs were made to our safety boats and all the crafts are equipped with new lights. A thank you to all the parents and leaders that helped winterising the boats, sanding down and painting them and subsequently launching them back into the water. We thank the Group

Executive Committee for all its efforts in funding the group's valuable boating fleet and enabling us to remain one of the premier sea scout groups on the Thames.

What to look forward to in the future!!! Due to the size of our troop, and the frustration not to be able to offer children from outside our group a place, we have decided to split the troop into two groups, Port (10 to 12 years) and Starboard (12 to 14 years) from August. A consultation/information evening was held in March to gain the views of the parents. Overall the idea was received very well, and we are looking at implementing this from 18th August 2017.

As briefly mentioned in the "few facts" above, every Friday evening a team of qualified leaders / young leaders & helpers are teaching the Troop different boating skills, i.e. Kayaking, Sailing, Rowing, canoeing, power boating, sculling over the stern and swimming.

I would like to thank Ian Rowlands, Simon Burrows, Warran Taylor, Sarah Edmonds, James Ayles, Andy Tyler, Ted Beddingfield, Tom Horne, Dinyar Byramji, Matthew Fletcher, Darius Byramji, Rustum Byramji, Tom Hunter, Daniel Oliver, Tom Edmonds, Joe Mitchell, Kirsty Craig, Ella Aldridge, Holly Owen-White, Charlie Owen-White, Katie Mackie, Louis Holding, James Weedon, Josh Melton, Jamie Wade, Mark Houllier and Dominic Toloui for all their input, time and incredible positive attitude and atmosphere they bring to Scouts every Friday. The Troop would not be able to offer the variety of activities without you. I look forward to continuing working with all of you.

Yours in Scouting,

Floor Wouters
Scout Leader



Roll of Honour

Award for merit

Martin Meacher

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Rory Traynor

Warry Award for Endeavour

Gabriel Manning

Chief Scout's Silver Award - Dolphin Pack

Tom Foster
Harry Foster
Marcus Ashby
Pip Cinpoes
Teddy Brewer
Toby Flynn
Conor Pooley-Hogan
Lorenzo D'Ercole
Edward Revill
Stanley Sherwin
Flynn Orchard

Chief Scout's Silver Award - Walrus Pack

Kirin Mitchell
Elly Wong

Chief Scout's Bronze Award - Narwhal Colony

Louis Sands
Leo Taylor

Chief Scout's Bronze Award - Porpoise Colony

Oliver Cook
James Holt
Rory Clow
Lara Orwell
Hermione Chapman
Vedish Chauhan

Roll of Honour - National Sea Scout Regatta

Under 12 1/2 Gig (Sea Scout Group)

Millie Burrows, Olivia Graham, Daniel Fletcher, Alfie Williams, Tori Nevins

Under 12 1/2 Double Dinghy (The Gargoyle)

Millie Burrows, Mauro Miller, Sian Patel

Under 12 1/2 Overall (Plate)

Under 14 Gig (The Oar)

Josh Taylor, Amy Beddingfield, Tomas Naylor-Hill, Daniel Best, Jai Patel

Under 16 Gig (Cannonball Trophy)

Sammy Miller, Alfie Hudson, Alex Burrows, Cole Adams, Cole Mulkerrins

Overall Regatta (Scoter Cobham Sword)

Others involved

Ed Whitehouse
Sam Burkitt
Emmett Murphy
Joel Martin
Alfie MacDonald
Daf John
Simon White
Nat Tatarka
Harris Sheikh