

Sept
2019
Newsletter

5th Crawley Scout Group

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Group Information

Chairman's report, Sarah Dodwell

Welcome to 5th Crawley's AGM and thank you for coming.

You will be able to read section reports in this newsletter which will summarise our year of activities, and I hope you will once again be impressed with the programmes our young people have been taking part in, and that both you and they are enjoying the time spent with us.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the leader team and their helpers for the fantastic job they do planning and running interesting and engaging programmes for our young members. A big thank you also to our GSL, Eddy Hills, who continues to provide his support, vision and leadership, ensuring that 5th Crawley continues to grow and thrive.

As I mention every year at our AGM, the Scouting movement is entirely reliant on adult volunteers who give their time freely to ensure your young people have access to the best possible programme of development, giving them the chance to make friends, have fun and develop skills for life. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of our volunteer leaders, young leaders, adult helpers and occasional parent helpers for making the last year such a success and for their continuing commitment.

The Executive Committee has had another busy year which has seen a continued investment in the headquarters and in equipment to enhance the experience of our young people.

I am grateful to Jo Cook for her commitment to managing a smooth transition to our new Treasurer, Karolis Pulokas, and for her ongoing support for grant applications. Thank you to Sarah Clapp for the time she has spent as Group Secretary prior to stepping down. Thank you also to parent reps who have supported us this year (Eddy can you add names of who has attended this year - I have lost track, sorry!) - your input is very much appreciated and we hope you will continue to attend and provide your valuable opinions and feedback.

Thank you

Sarah Dodwell, Chairman



Group Scout Leader's report - Eddy Hills

This report supplements those from each of our 5 sections. The Scout Group is formed of 2 Beaver Colonies, 2 Cub Packs and a Scout Troop based both at the Scout HQ, Gales Drive, Three Bridges and our satellite located at Maidenbower Community Centre. Each section supported by their own team of volunteer leaders and helpers who run weekly activities. The Group is supported by a team of parents and leaders (Executive Committee) who assist the running of the Group, ensure this is done so safely and has the funds to do so within the frameworks of the Charities Commission and The Scout Association as Trustees.

It's been a great year – many of you will recall it was our 60th year in 2018 and culminated in a special activity at Gatwick Aviation Museum where the Group celebrated with an indoor picnic (just as well as it poured all afternoon) and a birthday cake supported by our MP, Henry Smith, and a number of guests including 30 or so family members. Activities planned enabled all members who attended to gain their Aviation badge.

Once again, our membership continues to grow and during the year it has hovered around 100 young people, which is great news. One year ago 5th Crawley opened its second Cub Pack in Maidenbower, alongside our Three Bridges Pack, and we are pleased to report that we have grown from half a dozen Cubs to nearly 20 during the year. This wouldn't be possible without attracting a number of new leaders and helpers across all our sections. You can never have too many helpers, so we're keen to keep recruiting adults too. Our Beavers at Three Bridges and Maidenbower continue to be over-subscribed but are managing to keep waiting times reasonable and are also sharing with other local Colonies.

5th Crawley re-opened its Scout Troop four years ago and many of the original Scouts have remained throughout this time, Four have gone on to Explorers at the start of the summer joining Shackleton ESU - we wish them well. We are hoping two or three older Scouts will join them over the coming year.

Across all sections many young people have earned the highest award – The Chief Scouts Award which confirms that good progress is being made with badges and programmes. The aforementioned Scouts/ Explorers have earned their Gold Award this Summer. Luke, Catherine, Corey and Alex are the first to do so in nearly 20 years! Well done to all Beavers (Bronze), Cubs (Silver) and Scouts (Gold) who have earned their Chief Scout Awards.

You may recall that over the past few years the Group has spent time raising funds to refurbish our Three Bridges base. 2018/19 was no different but there was a focus on creating a secure and dry storage facility for our equipment. This also prompted us to clear the area, put down a paved area and create access to the proposed storage building. We are very grateful to James Kitcherside (one of our Beaver parents) for leading the groundwork and influencing local suppliers to supply materials at a lower cost and, in some cases, free of charge. This work occurred over a weekend in January with much help from other parents and leaders. We are also grateful to Kevin Ives and Mick Hill who provided their time and expertise to erect the building, clad and fit it out over a number of weekends with support from other leaders. This collective effort has helped the Group to store its kit in a single location, and also smarten up the site.

Importantly the completion of this project has allowed us to invest in equipment for our young people which has included camping items such as extra tents, cooking and activities equipment which have all been used this summer.

Sadly this year the Jungle Club closed at Christmas. Although the Jungle Club was an independent organisation, their presence at the HQ enabled us to complete a number of projects and improvements by contributing to related costs.

Thankfully, as a Group we are big enough to be largely self-sufficient. However it is important that members' monthly subscriptions are paid throughout the year by standing order, as per the normal membership requirements; and Gift Aid is supported by parents where possible. Our Group Executive Committee also helps by sourcing and applying for grants and funds; and providing support in other ways.

Many thanks to Sarah Dodwell, our Chair. Karolis Pulokas and Jo Cook, Group Treasurers, who between them have helped me manage the Group. Jo is stepping down this year after putting our finances in good order, Sarah Clapp stepped down as Group Secretary earlier in the year; both joined at a critical time and have seen us through to where the Group is today – we are most grateful.

I'd like to recognise the support of all our leaders (Jane, Ian, Helen and Alex their teams) and supporters throughout the year, the Group and its section cannot operate without them. Our section Leaders and Group helpers provide great meeting, activities and take care of many aspects of running their sections allowing me to focus on other aspects. Thank you very much!

Finally we all enjoy working with the young people and seeing the progress they make. The Group is always open to input and help so if you can assist even in a small way to help the Group succeed in its work we'd love to hear from you, whether that's supporting meetings or activities occasionally or more regularly as a leader or by supporting our Executive Committee. Please talk to any of the Leaders or Executive members at any time.

Eddy Hills, Group Scout Leader



SECTION UPDATES

Maidenbower Beavers - Helen (Fox), Beaver Scout Leader



There are 24 lively, engaging Beavers in our Colony. We have fair attendance but where there's a clash with an event at the school we always come off worst. Similarly, when a meeting is planned for a venue away from Maidenbower, attendance is practically halved. We have excellent parent help though as all are informed on joining that assistance in some form is mandatory. We are settled in at the Community Centre with the Beavers enjoying the extra space, although we do try to get out and about as much as we can. Mysteriously, our cupboard seems to move around the stage on a weekly basis. We have had to hold two meetings away from the Centre when it became a Polling Station but this did not impact on our programme.

Beavers show good behaviour and are rewarded with Beaver of the Week when recipients take home Beaver Bear and fill in a log book with everything he's taken part in, Beaver of the Month which merits a special leather woggle, monthly Beavers Try Hard and Beavers Well Done fun badges and a special Beaver of the Term trophy. We operate a Lodge system with Lodge Leaders and Assistants which encourages leadership and team working skills. Beavers earn lots of activity and challenge badges and we are on track to get them through to their Chief Scout's Bronze Award assuming they start at age 6. We have good retention and most of our Beavers progress into our Cub Pack.

Beaver Leaders are pleased to support the two Cub Leaders as they are shift workers, making it a smooth transition for Beavers moving up. Squirrel has put a lot of hours in to setting up OSM for the Section and is pleased with the system so far.

Both Beaver Leaders are working on their leadership training with mentoring support from me and the GSL. We are very lucky to have been allocated two Young Leaders called Badger and Bear who are a huge help to the Leaders and a great hit with the Beavers. They are an asset to the Group. The Colony is fortunate to have Deer taking in the money, doing the register, fielding enquiries, keeping an eye on the door and a myriad of other admin duties which is a huge help.

By the time you read this we will have held our Summer Sleepover at Stanford at the weekend, so please forgive the bleary eyes.

Three Bridges Beavers - Jane (Bubbles), Beaver Scout Leader

We have had a very eventful year, completing the Faith Badge, Space Badge, International Badge, Cooks Badge, Global Issues Badge, Health & Fitness Badge and Experiment Badge, as well as working towards all the challenge badges.

We have had visits to the Crawley Museum, a visit to the Church and an amazing evening when the Morris Dancers came to visit us! We did lots of exciting experiments involving walking water, volcanoes and skittles. We made a water filter and discussed recycling, and learnt lots about Fair Trade products and endangered animals to complete the Global Issues badge.



Over two weeks we completed the Space Badge, where we learnt about all the Planets, Neil Armstrong and had a visit from our 'District Spaceman' with his telescope. We played a fun game where we had to collect moon rocks and walk like we were in Space!

Our trip to the Crawley Museum was very exciting and we got to ask how the names of the roads in Crawley came about. Some of the roads in Maidenbower are named after great Railway men. We tried lots of foods from different countries and coloured in their national flags. We learnt a French song and learnt about French Beaver Scouts for the International Badge.

We have had two sleepovers this year. We had a St Patrick's Day themed Sleepover and then a Summer one in Haywards Heath. WE also went to Go Beavers in June which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We currently have 20 Beavers with a healthy waiting list and new ones starting in September.

Pictures are from the experiment badge and space badge when we made glow in the dark constellations.

Maidenbower Cub Pack - Helen (Fox) Cub Scout Leader



Cubs started in September 2018 with four young people and increased their numbers on an almost weekly basis to the current number of 18.

Most have come up from Maidenbower Beavers but we have children who are new to Scouting or who have transitioned from other Groups. Mostly they live in Maidenbower and attend Maidenbower schools and there appears to be a strong wish to stay in the neighbourhood which impacts upon numbers when there is a clash with a school activity or an activity planned for elsewhere. We are working on that and also on remembering that we are part of 5th Crawley with a headquarters in Three Bridges. Looking ahead, with the majority of Cubs being 8 years old there will be a strong need for a Scout Troop in Maidenbower in two years' time.

With the two main Cub Leaders both working shifts and therefore not always being able to attend meetings, the Pack is supported by the Beaver Leaders and one of the Young Leaders. We try to plan the programmes to have both Sections in the same place, albeit doing different activities according to their badge requirements. Cubs are also supported by Khukela who collects forms and money, welcomes, fields enquiries, monitors the front door and does the Section's accounts which is a great help.

The Pack has some children with additional needs which can be challenging but the team is working together to be consistent in the way this is managed. There is an emphasis placed on doing your best with a Cub of the Week mascot, Cub of the Month woggle, Cubs Try Hard and Cubs Well Done fun badges and a Cub of the Term trophy awarded. The Pack has weekly inspections with points awarded individually and as a Six, with the winners being given a prize at the end of each term. The Pack operates a Six system with Sixers and Seconders, promoting leadership and team working. This is beneficial to all and encourages the Cubs to work together to help those who find it difficult to manage their behaviour. There are also two Cubs with hearing impairment but the Pack as a whole does its best to overcome any barriers - in fact, I suspect they've mostly forgotten any differences.

Cubs are working towards badges and are on track to achieve the Silver Chief Scout's Award when the time comes. The Pack will be attending County Cubs Cosmic Capers in September, which we are all excited about.

A look back over Three Bridges Cub Pack's last year - Ian Head CSL

We have had 20-23 Cubs over the last year. To mark our Group Anniversary, 12 Cubs attended the anniversary camp and several went to the activity/celebration day at the Gatwick Aviation Museum.

In August, we had a joint summer camp with 1st Langley Green and six Cubs came. The Pack had an enjoyable visit to Crawley Museum and we also visited the Town Hall Council Chamber, and had a Question and Answer evening with the Mayor.

Four Cubs achieved the Chief Scouts Silver Award, and seven Cubs have moved on to Scouts.

A big thank you to Linda who unfortunately had to step down for family reasons during the year. Thanks also to Jenny and Victoria, Megan, John and our two Young Leaders, Natasha and Roberta.



An Update from the Scout Troop - Alex Donald ASL

Scout numbers have remained steady over the last year, with many of those who I first met nearly three years ago now moved on to Explorers with their Chief Scout Gold award either due or awarded (four in total). I'm sure you would agree that for the Troop and the young people this is a fantastic achievement.

Our Scouts have been working towards a multitude of badges with work on challenge badges progressing steadily so that, like those mentioned earlier, they might one day also attain their Chief Scout Gold Award.

To this end as part of the World badge we have, thanks to the tech wizard Clive Hilton, managed to contact two scouts in Sweden, and a leader from the Netherlands who now lives in Scotland. It is my hope that similar activities may lead in the future to strong links with a foreign group, opening up further opportunities for camps and activities with our friends abroad.

This year, we held another successful summer camp, this year's venue was the Royal Tunbridge Wells District's Campsite, Adamswell, which is a lovely venue close to the spa valley railway (which we visited). The young people took part in caving, archery, tomahawk throwing and hiking. We were joined by four of our former scouts, newly invested as Explorer Scouts, which formed a first taste for them as life as a Young Leader.

Moving forward into the autumn term we hope to continue to run a successful and varied programme. With as much input from our scouts as possible.



Useful contacts

Wendy Keeley	dc@cdscouts.org.uk
Sarah Dodwell, Chairman	sarahdod@gmail.com
Eddy Hills, GSL	eddyhills@btinternet.com
Jane Pelham, BSL, TBs Beaver Colony	Jane1901@live.co.uk
Helen Ives, Acting BSL, MB Beaver Colony	helen.ives@hotmail.co.uk
Ian Head, Acting CSL, TBs Cub Pack	lan1head@yahoo.co.uk
Alex Donald, SL	alexander.donald1992@gmail.com

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

5th CRAWLEY SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st March 2019 which comprise the Financial Statement, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages 1 and 2.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- 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 Group 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: CHRIS IRVING
Qualification: FMAAT
Address: 65 GALES DRIVE
THREE BRIDGES, CRAWLEY
Date: 9th SEPTEMBER 2019

5TH CRAWLEY SCOUT GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Notes	2018-19	2017-18
Income			
Subscriptions	(1)	15,785	12,234
Hut Hire	(2)	5,475	8,732
Fundraising		0	43
Camp Contributions		1,673	645
Activity Contributions		1,052	829
Bank Interest		0	0
Miscellaneous (incl. Grants & Loans)	(3)	4,508	1,000
Total Income		28,492	23,483
Expenditure			
Building Expenses:			
Property, plant and equipment	(4)	5,253	0
Repairs & Maintenance	(5)	4,103	634
Rent		1,837	1,780
Insurance		740	598
Electricity		795	1,542
Water & Sewerage		541	1,034
Cleaning		818	1,147
		14,088	6,734
Activity Expenses:			
Scouts		635	445
Cubs		508	169
Beavers		1,711	2,048
Group		808	346
Camp	(6)	2,297	775
		5,959	3,782
Capitation	(7)	5,207	4,025
Administration		479	159
Loan Repayments		0	2,500
Donations		25	0
Uniforms & Badges		1,356	1,588
Total Expenditure		27,114	18,788
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,379	4,695

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance at 1st April 2018	9,373	4,678
Surplus for the year	1,379	4,695
Balance at 31st March 2019	10,752	9,373

Represented by:

Cash in Hand	652	418
Cash at Bank	10,100	8,955
Total Assets	10,752	9,373

5TH CRAWLEY SCOUT GROUP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2018-19

- (1) The increase in Subscriptions and Investiture Fees reflects the increase in numbers across the whole of the 5th Crawley Scout Group.
- (2) Hut Hire is down on last year due to cancellation of the hut hiring by the the Jungle Club as of December 2018
- (3) £2,500 grant received from Crawley Borough Council and £2,000 from Gatwick Airport Community Trust
- (4) £4,941 for a newly built storage shed funded by Gatwick Airport Community Trust and £313 for camping equipment
- (5) Most expenditure on electrical repairs for £2,492 and £722.5 for plumbing repairs
- (6) Increase relates to Crawley Scout Group 60th anniversary expenses and increase in camp income
- (7) £5,206.50 in capitation fees for year 2018-19 which relates to increase in memberships

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