

**MINUTES OF 1ST ROFFEY SCOUT GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2011**

PRESENT: Brian Barker – District Commissioner, Dutch Hollands – 1st Roffey Group President, Paul Richardson – Chairman, Graham Penn- Group Scout Leader, Deanne Ambrose – Treasurer, Carole Whorwood – Secretary. Executive Committee Members, Leaders, Parents and Children.

1. Welcome

Paul thanked everyone for coming to the AGM this year and extended a special welcome to our guests from District, our President and honourary members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Trevor Walker, Carol Whiteford, Lynn Peckham-Hunt, Martin Richardson, Anita Wooding, Parents Mrs Hayes and Mr Chapman.

3. Minutes of Last AGM

No matters arising. There were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Paul Richardson and seconded by Graham Penn.

4. Chairman's Introduction (Paul Richardson)

The AGM is one of the formal parts of the year, which as a Scout Group we must organise. Its main function is to keep everyone informed about the wellbeing of the Group, issue the Annual Report, to elect the Group Executive and elect and nominate our representative on the District Committee for the coming year.

There have been a number of issues over the past year, including an attempt to increase our rent by 1200%. However, after a meeting with the Trustees of the Innes Trust who own the land on which the hut stands, this has now been resolved in our favour. We have also just been granted planning permission to add extra storage on the back of the hut, this is going to be a major project for the coming year and we are now actively seeking the funding to carry out the work. On the maintenance of the hut there have been a number of issues with the building, firstly the repairing of the floor and secondly the fire door in the explorer den needing replacing.

As Chairman I take a keen interest in what each of the sections do throughout the year, I have close contact with some of the sections, with weekly reports from other members of my family who are part of the section, Alison (Owl) with Beavers and Craig with Scouts. I also teach shooting with the Cubs during the year and am heavily involved as a shooting instructor, not just for the Group, but also coaching at County and District level. District level instruction is also provided by Craig Richardson and John Lucy from 1st Roffey and Adrian Baines from 1st St Leonards and again last year we won the County competition for the third time. David Ambrose was selected to represent the County at the Inter County shoot (a National Scout Competition) in March and the team came 5th out of 15, you can all read the full report in the

latest Newsletter. I have also just been appointed as a Coach for the Scout National Squad.

We would also like to take a little time to tell you about the activities from last year and what is planned for next year from our Group Scout Leader, Graham Penn.

5. Group Scout Leader's Report (Graham Penn)

As you will all hear (hopefully) from the various sections, it has been a good year for 1st Roffey. We celebrated our 90th Anniversary and we look forward to the next 90 years.

All the sections remain strong and active and are full. Our waiting list also indicates that we are not likely to be short of recruits any time soon. The Scout Association is anxious to increase numbers in scouting, but our issues are probably the same as every other group in the country and that is the number of adult helpers that are available to run a programme that is safe for the numbers of young people involved. We also do have something of an issue with the number of 'lively' youngsters we can safely accommodate in a hut which is compact. Anyone who has run the gauntlet of flying footballs prior to a scout meeting will know precisely what I mean!

I would like to thank the Leader team for all their efforts over the year. At this time last year we were about to lose three uniformed leaders and are likely soon to replace one of them. We are therefore quite tight on leader resource and do need to recruit more adults if we are to maintain the level of scouting activities across all the sections going forward. If anyone feels they MIGHT want to lend a hand, do please talk to me after the formal parts of the meeting, without obligation and if anyone knows somebody not at the meeting who might be useful, do please 'dob' on them without delay!

Both myself and Cathy helped out at Cub camp a couple of weeks ago with three parents also helping namely John Boulton, Eric Sylvester and Christina Harrison. They were all fantastic and the camp could not have taken place without them and that is precisely the type of help we need and will always be needed. Usually when asked directly, parents are happy to help, but please don't wait to be asked.

6. Section Reports

Beavers (Alison Richardson)

In the absence of Carol Whiteford, Alison Richardson reported that the Beaver section is full with 24 at present. They are currently doing Badge work. Carol had commented how many of the Beavers continue to Cubs. There is a trip to the Circus arranged for June, Legoland in October and the Panto at Christmas jointly with the Cubs.

Cubs (Graham Whymark)

Graham reported it has been another busy year for the Pack. Summer term was spent at the campsite doing scouting activities such as tracking, fire lighting and cooking over the fires. On return from the summer break there was a varied programme. The cubs cooked spaghetti bolognese and leek and potato soup which must have okay as there were no reports of illness! Dutch Hollands our Group President, came to a meeting and told the cubs about his life as a cub and scout and they were all enthralled by his tales. Two evenings were spent doing various scientific experiments which meant most of the pack were awarded their Scientist Activity badge. Also this term we had a visit from a representative of the RNLI who told us about the activities they do and then covered the safety aspect. He also timed one of our cubs putting on the full lifeboat man's gear. It rather swamped Dominic! This was incorporated into the Person Safety Activity badge which the cubs completed and were awarded. The cubs also did map reading and used compasses to find their way around.

To achieve the Global Challenge, the cubs had to find out the customs, religion, food etc of various countries. This included a further evening of cooking a dish from each of the countries researched. Before Christmas some cubs went to the campsite to do some fun activities: geo casing, making their own type of animals and making cards. The cubs who attended this event were awarded the Creative Challenge badge. The cubs also went to the Horsham Pantomime with the Beavers and a good time was had by all.

Both in the autumn and the last term the cubs had the opportunity to shoot air rifles, thanks to Paul Richardson, our Group Chairman, for arranging and supervising these evenings. Two teams were entered in the District Chess tournament and whilst the teams had a good afternoon they were not successful in winning. A Visit to Horsham Fire Station is planned for the end of term, thanks to John Fitzpatrick and Shanti for arranging this.

The last event in mid May was the annual camp with most of the pack attending. This took place at the Crawley campsite at Pease Pottage as our own campsite at Colgate was heavily booked. It was a semi-joint camp with 5th/10th Horsham. There were some joint wide games and a joint camp fire, thanks to Chris Sillet for leading this, but otherwise had separate activities. On the Saturday morning there were various bases for the cubs to test their skills at leadership, teamwork etc. In the afternoon the cubs went on a walk out of the campsite and into and around Buchan Park. On Sunday morning there were again various bases to continue the theme from Saturday. All the cubs seemed to enjoy themselves.

Finally, Graham thanked Lynn (Shanti) for her help and support throughout the year, parents John Boulton (Kaa) who has helped throughout the year and Eric Silvester (Shere Khan) who joined earlier this year. Thanks also to Graham and Cathy Penn for doing the catering and general help at the camp. One sad note, we say goodbye to Simon Westby (Baloo) who has been with us for some years but has to give up due to work pressures. Graham thanked

Simon for all his help, including coming to the camp to help set up and take down.

Scouts (Dave White)

Dave reported it had been another busy year with various activities and events.

In May we held a weekend camp at the campsite with bashers being used to keep dry. Troop activities included baking bread in a Billy and a Dixie, breakfast on the open fire with a hot plate and some pioneering projects attempted. The scouts enjoyed the bread ALL gone in ten minutes! In June the scouts cycled the Down's Link with four teams of adults and scouts, with the additional help of parents running the bases. This activity could not run without the adult help and Dave thanked the parents involved and Bob Turner for his help in transporting the bikes to the start and the collection at the end. The only downside to the day was John Lucy winning the prize in the adult team! There was a barbeque at the end which always seems to finish the day well.

The scouts were on the lake again two nights a week for five weeks. A big thank you was given to Martin Richardson for planning and helping to run this event. Without his input and skills, the canoeing course would suffer. Dave also thanked John Fitzpatrick, Alfie and Craig for their support in this activity. July saw the District Raft Race event at Southwater Lake. Three teams of scouts were entered and an additional leader's team at the end. This event is always taken in good part by our scouts and they seem to enjoy the event and the two practice nights beforehand. The canoe trip on the Medway was a great success and Dave thanked all the leaders for their assistance and help on the day and a special thank you was given to Cathy Lucy and Steve Fowler. The annual end of year bike ride took place around Roffey followed by a barbeque which always makes a good end to the summer term.

The big event of the year was summer camp. This was again at Rogate this year as the scouts always like going there! It is the scouts' favourite campsite as it allows so many possible activities to do on the site. This year the planning and organisation for camp was done by Craig and John in preparation for their Nights Away permit. They decided to split the troop in two and run two different activities at once. The first group had camp ovens with a full roast dinner cooked on the first day and on the second day they had to work out a three-course menu for £4.00 per person plus one Scouter. They also had a quiz to work out in Midhurst, buy the food and then return to cook the meal. The other half of the group were led into the woods and given a set area in which they were to erect a shelter and a cooking area. They had to remain in this area with no exceptions allowed, only being allowed to leave if they had any type of accident. They seemed to accept the situation well! The projects were to make a tripod to suspend a large can to make a stew. They prepared traps for cray fish in the river, they had to distill dirty water to make it clean, make a filter with stone and sand and for breakfast had to cook on Buddy Burners made from large catering tins. To finish off at night they had to construct a Hawaiiin oven. They were given enough bread and fillings for two

days for their lunch. They could eat as much as they liked on the first days lunch, but if they ate it all there would not be a top-up for the second day and they would have to wait for dinner. The last full day was taken up with the Ariel Runway and making paper planes and flying them from the wooded tower, they had to construct it first. A good camp for all the boys and girls and they seemed to get a lot out of the experience.

In September six scouts went off to a Patrol Leader's course at Bentley Copse. The scouts enjoyed the experience and will hopefully gain some extra knowledge, we will see! We had a joint trip with 1st St Leonards to kayak on the River Dart, four scouts and three leaders from Roffey took part. The water levels were higher than normal but the scouts did very well, especially Cherry. There was an inter-patrol cooking competition and this was taken on board very well with all the patrols making a real effort. Dave thanked the judges for their time and contribution to the evening, Cathy Lucy, Alex Fitzpatrick and Craig and Neil Laws. The hiking season started again in January but there were a few problems due to weather. A night hike was managed from Lewes. The weather was fairly blustery with force 6 to 7 winds! The scouts managed very well and made the necessary escape to the hills. February and March was taken up with the Overland practice hikes and the practice weekend. This was a good weekend for the scouts and explorers, they made good times and their camp craft improved. Oliver Field was singled out for his 'dogged' approach to the hike as this was his first time at this event. The Overland went better than any of the leaders expected, they all thought the scouts would make the first day and would have to be collected on the Saturday evening. But to the surprise and real delight of the leaders, they not just finished the hike, but came sixteenth out of the thirty three scout teams that started!

Explorers (Gareth Sear)

In the absence of Trevor, Gareth reported that there is a strong team of 10 that usually turn-out. They have been ice-skating, laser quest, bowling, night hikes. Been at campsite doing orienteering and pioneering. Summer expedition was to the Lake District camping and did rock climbing on iron ladders. Won the Mad March Hare and came a fantastic 8th in the Overland.

7. Section Presentations

The Scout of the Year was awarded to David Ambrose. Although he has now moved on to Explorers he was chosen for his commitment to Scouts and has always taken part in all the activities. He came 5th in the County Shooting team in his first year in National competition.

The Cub of the Year was awarded to Kirsty Silvester. She came straight into Cubs and has always supported the pack. She is due to go up to Scouts soon.

The Beaver of the Year was awarded to Daniel Senior.

8. District Commissioner's Report (Brian Barker)

Brian announced that he will be standing down from the role of District Commissioner on 31 March 2012. He thanked all the leaders on behalf of the District and non-uniform Executive for all their hard work. He thanked Paul

for his commitment with the District/County shooting. He reiterated Graham's comments about the shortage of leaders, with waiting lists the highest they have ever been and with groups to full capacity we need help with the running of all sections. He thanked all the Marshalls who helped at the St George's Day Parade due to the Police withdrawing. Brian thanked 1st Roffey for the invitation to the AGM and said he is always made very welcome and that this will be his last as District Commissioner. He congratulated Andrew Cheesman who is taking part in the World Jamboree which is a once in a lifetime experience in Sweden. Andrew has made cakes to sell following the AGM as part of his fundraising for the trip.

He thanked all the leaders on behalf of the District and non-uniform Executive for all their hard work. He thanked Paul for his commitment with the District/County Shooting. He reiterated Graham's comments about the shortage of leaders, with waiting lists the highest they have ever been and with groups full to capacity we need help with the running of all sections.

9. 1st Roffey President (Dutch Hollands)

Dutch was invited to say a few words and said how scouts had changed over the years. He gave an account of an outing he took part in where 28 scouts were taken out on the back of a coal lorry and cooking a paella over the camp fire. Dutch said he always enjoyed coming to 1st Roffey and thanked everyone for inviting him.

10. Treasurer's Report (Deanne Ambrose)

A full report is attached. Deanne reported we have had a successful year and we end the year on a strong note. We hold £14,000 in our Savings account, £2500 allocated towards future replacement of the mini-bus and a bill outstanding of £2000 for the new fire door in the Explorers Den. Repairs to the scout hut floor are still to be paid for. Deanne also mentioned the importance of Gift Aid to the group and thanked everyone for sending in their Sainsbury's vouchers. Deanne thanked Martin and Clare Richardson for all their help in invoicing and collection of subs. She also advised that a fundraising committee has now been set-up following a letter to parents. Thanks were also given to Martin Wingrove for all the work he does keeping the minibus running.

11. Appointment of Group Chairman

Paul Richardson agreed to stand again. This was proposed by Graham Penn and Seconded by Cathy Penn.

12. Election of Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer

Carole and Deanne both agreed to stand again. Proposed by Graham Penn and Seconded by Paul Richardson.

13. Election of other Members of Group Executive

Martin Richardson – Vice Chairman, Julie Senior, Anita Wooding, Chris Lyne, Martin Wingrove, Alex Fitzpatrick and Richard Cheesman have all agreed to stand again. Proposed by Paul Richardson and Seconded by Graham Penn.

14. Election of Group Representative to District

Paul agreed to stand again. Proposed by Graham Penn and Seconded by Deanne Ambrose.

15. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

Paul again thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.