

1ST THURSTASTON SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The flag was broken at the start of the meeting by Matthew Jones.

The Chairman welcomed Ken Jones (District Commissioner), Brian Tucker (Assistant County Commissioner), committee members, leaders, parents, children and all friends of the Group.

Apologies for absence:

David Cross (District President); Richard Twemlow (District Chairman); Roy Kenyon (District Treasurer); Ann Coulson (Deputy District Commissioner).

Minutes of the previous AGM:

Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as correct.
Proposed by Chris Dugdale.
Seconded by Dave Reed.

Chairman's Report – AGM 2009

The purpose of the executive committee is to support the GSL and leaders with fund raising, maintenance, social events, equipment and probably a host of other tasks.

This year on the maintenance front we have had the main hut rewired. The original wiring was not unsafe but the executive felt that it was time to put in new wiring and fittings. This follows on from the kitchen and toilet refurbishments of recent years. Next year's project is to fund-raise for a new trailer for going to camp.

Also on the maintenance front we had several successful work days which have helped keep the house and grounds up to scratch. Thanks to Dave Reed, Rob Noble and others for their work on the house and grounds and mini bus, and also to Jon and Robert Oliver who have spent much time keeping the grass and undergrowth under control. Thanks to all the committee and parents and the leaders who helped on these work days.

Our fund raising efforts will probably be dealt with by our treasurer but we had three Jumble Sales, a Christmas Fair and an Easter Fair, the Christmas Scout Post and we run a 100 club. There is also a dedicated band of helpers who run the Irby Club Draw for us.

The Jumble sales and Christmas Post in particular are very labour intensive. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any of these events.

It has been a year with lots of activity and this will be dealt with in the GSL's report and by the section leaders.

This was our 75th year, on the 5th Nov we had a 75th celebration with fireworks which was enjoyed by all. This would be a good opportunity to suggest that you look at the Group website, where you will find easy to navigate web pages

with much about the history of the group and also keeping you up to date with what is going on at the moment. Thanks to Dave Reed for this and to Steve Hare who has recently helped us add many historical photos to the web record.

Whilst talking about the internet another mention should be our Easy Fundraising website and Easy Search website. If you haven't looked at this please do, the search engine can be used in the same way as Google and anything purchased through the site will give us added funds without any cost to yourselves.

Finally I would like to thank Dave and Lorraine Turner for their work in the group over the past few years, They have decided to finish on the committee this year but have said that they would still like to keep in touch with the group so will probably be seen at functions in the future.

Ray Dugdale – Group Chairman

Treasurer's Report - AGM 2009

I'm now in my fourth year as Group Treasurer and just about getting the hang of it.

Receipts this year are up on last year – income of £25,259 compared to £24,118.

Expenditure is also up from £23,618 to £26,219. The cost of repairs and renewals are up from £1465 to £4933 – this sum includes the cost of rewiring the HQ.

Fund raising income is up by about £1000 on last year. A total of £8,123 was raised.

Takings from the weekly Irby Club draw are slightly down, just over £300, on last year but with a slight reduction in the number of prizes the profit is still a very worthwhile £1468 – thanks again to Fergus and Vic for their efforts.

The 100 Club could do with a few more members to live up to its name – we currently have 71 members. For an annual subscription of £12 you could win up to £15 in the monthly draws. Profit this year was £468.

Jumble sales continue to be a good source of income - this year we had three and income was consequently up from £639 to £1596.

We had our **75th Anniversary** this year and spent just under £700 on fireworks and food for the celebrations but with a request for voluntary contributions the net cost was only about £130.

We also raised over £2000 on the Scout Christmas Post up – up almost £300 on last year.

The regular HQ running costs are slightly up on last year. Amongst other things our lease went up from £400 to £500.

Our transport costs are also slightly up – maintenance and repair showing the biggest increase.

Subscriptions – we raised subs by £5 per term last year and were considering a similar rise this year. However, in light of the present financial climate it has been suggested that this was perhaps a little excessive. We have also reviewed the method of collecting subs and at a recent committee meeting it was agreed that we would look at the possibility of collecting subs by bank standing order. It was suggested that this could operate monthly.

I am therefore proposing to raise the annual subs from the present £90 to £96. If this was paid by monthly standing order this would work out at £8 per month. This system would in the long run be a simpler system and less labour intensive from my point of view. I therefore put this proposal to the meeting.

Doug Funnell – Group Treasurer

Proposal seconded by Jayne Barnes

GSL's Report – AGM 2009

Well what a year we have had, you will soon hear all the detail in the Sections reports. Today I want to share the highlights with you and thank the people who make it all possible.

We have had some fantastic successes this year and the icing on the cake was being awarded the Presidents Prize at the District AGM in May for 'Best Scout Group' of the Year. All the Sections actively take part in many District events and competitions; it's especially good to see the Scouts competing again.

My thanks to Jayne Oliver and Andy Costall, the other two Section Leaders and all the other Leaders and Helpers in their teams who turn up every week and provide top quality Scouting for your children. Please stand up and take a round of applause.

Behind the scenes Dave & Lorraine Turner stepped down from the Exec Committee after several years of service, we thank them for their time and commitment to the Group. After 10 years service as Group Secretary Chris Dugdale sadly has decided to retire, many thanks for everything you have done for us Chris. Thank you to Marjorie Reed for stepping in and taking the minutes at our meetings.

Ray Dugdale (Chairman) has indicated his intention to retire this year, so we have made succession plans soon to be shared with you. Several parents have joined the Exec this year for which we are very grateful, thanks Mike Davies, Alan Parr, Fiona Hurley, Conrad Toohey and Cath Corby for your support. I am pleased to announce that two of those, Conrad and Cath have decided to join us as Leaders, great news. I would like you all to show your appreciation for the invaluable work the Exec Committee do behind the scenes to keep the Group running smoothly – Please stand up and take a round of applause.

Recently we have welcomed a new Young Leader, Emily Hilton, who is working with the Beaver Section, she contacted HQ herself and volunteered, thank you.

I would like to add my personal thanks to Ken Jones our DC who has been a great support to me over the last twelve months, through some difficult times. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, thanks to everyone involved in the Group in any way, we are a success story, long may it continue.

Sue Flush – Group Scout Leader

SECTION REPORTS

1st Thurstaston Beavers

When asked by the Group Chairman for my report for the A.G.M. of what the Beavers have been up to, I thought “where has another year gone!!!” We have had our yearly visit to the bowling alley in Bromborough which was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Once again we attended the District Beaver Craft Day in November held at St Chad’s Church Hall Irby. We attended the District Beaver Christingle Service at St Andrews Church in West Kirby, where all the Beavers made a Christingle, with a Christmas party afterwards. Father Christmas arrived at the end with presents. In January we celebrated Chinese New Year, we prepared vegetables for a stir fry, made prawn crackers and had fortune cookies which were made by one of my Leaders, each of the Beavers had to act out the fortune that they found in their cookie and this was great fun. We have made dinosaur draft excluders from tights, buttons, jewellery etc. In February we explored the night sky and made star gazers. We held a joint meeting with the Cubs where we learnt all about tropical insects from an expert who brought some of his live creatures with him. This was very interesting and enjoyed by all. In March a group of medical students from Liverpool University came and taught the Beavers how to do the recovery position and basic first aid. We made shields for the St Georges Day Parade and service, attended by 18 beavers. At the end of April we had a very enjoyable visit to Hoylake Lifeboat Station, where we Invested 4 Beavers. We had a visit from the local policeman. He showed the Beavers the police car, he handcuffed them and the Leaders then talked about stranger danger. We held a joint experiment evening with 4th Moreton Beavers at our H.Q. in May and we visited them on the 15th June for another enjoyable evening. We have had 2 District days out, 1 in October to Knowsley Safari park, they all returned in one piece and the next one was at the beginning of June to Martin Mere. The Beavers enjoyed both events. At the end of May we went on a hike and treasure hunt, it rained but they had fun. We have learnt road safety and visited our local library. This week we toasted bread on an open fire, which they all enjoyed.

At the beginning of May, 18 Beavers and 2 leaders attended our Group camp for our first ever Beaver sleepover. Finally I would like to thank my leaders Ellie, Sue, Cath and my parents for all their help during the year.

Jayne Oliver - Beaver Scout Leader

1st Thurstaston Cubs - Fletcher Pack

Another busy year has flown by; in June 08 we attended the WSGCA fun day at the West Kirby Marine Lake, those Cubs made a start on their Water Activity Badge. In July several Cubs attended the West Wirral attempt at the Wobble Board World record, the end of term saw us Crabbing at West Kirby.

In August 2 Cubs, 2 Scouts and myself joined 4th Morton for their summer camp and a great time was had by all involved.

After the summer hols we came back to prepare for our next District Camp at QCW, all the Cubs who attended completed their Map Reader and Navigator badges. Shortly afterwards we completed the work on the Water Activity making safety posters for the District Competition. Work also began on the Promise Challenge. In early October we had a visit from the Leader Team from 1st Frankby/Greasby to talk to us about their visit to the 2007 Jamboree to help us with our Global Challenge. We then had a visit to Radio City in Liverpool and took the opportunity to invest several Cubs up the tower.

In November we went to Chester Zoo with the District Cubs and attended the Remembrance Service at St Bart's. We filled shoe boxes again with Christmas gifts for children less fortunate than ourselves and we had a joint activity with 5th Heswall Cubs which involved a visit from the Samba Man and an exciting evening of percussion, drums and music. We attended the Christmas Fair and in December the District Carol Service and had our annual night hike along the Wirral Way and finished the term with a visit to St Bart's Church with Rev Jane which included a trip up the bell tower.

In January we took part in the District 5-a-side competition – stand up if you were involved. We celebrated the Chinese New Year and a group went to see Snow White as performed by the WW Guide and Scout Theatre Group.

In February we completed First Aid training and had a visit from the medical students to teach us CPR. We also had a visit attended by all Sections from the man with a Bug Box and some really interesting creepies.

In March we attended the District Swimming Gala and achieved 3rd place with Zach Hobson winning the U11 breaststroke – stand up if involved. Working on our Global Challenge we had a charity night and enjoyed fundraising for Comic relief, we sent off a cheque for over £160. We made Mother's Day cards and gifts and Red Six attended the final of the poster competition. Over the next two weeks we visited Birkenhead Fire Station as part of the Community Challenge and alternated with Easter Crafts.

In April our District Day Out was to Manchester Science Museum as Camelot was temporarily closed. We attended the District St George's Day parade and had a visit from a volunteer from Operation Christmas Child, the Cubs found

out where those boxes we filled last year end up and the effect that they have on the children who receive them.

In May we had our first Group Camp. The Cubs visited the U-Boat story in Birkenhead and enjoyed a round trip on the Mersey Ferry. We had a fantastic camp-fire and on Sunday some went pond-dipping and others took part in the Marshmallow Olympics. We continued work on the Fitness Challenge and Personal Safety badges. Two teams entered the District Cub Skills Challenge – stand up team - and we earned a creditable 4th place.

This month we have been to the Bidston Recycle Centre and attended the Summer District Cub Camp where we achieved the Athlete badge and worked towards the Outdoor Challenge. Oh and I nearly forgot WE WON THE DISTRICT TUG OF WAR after four attempts, the last three years we have been runners up ! Virtually every Cub was involved in one team or another and we felt it was a real team win.

As you can see we have had another hugely successful and busy year, this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Leader Team – Julie, Jon, Paul, Jane, Debbie and Alison and the various parents who help out when we need it, thank you all very much for everything you do for the Cubs and the Scout Group.

Sue Flush – Akela

1st Thurstaston Scouts - Richardson Troop

Well it has been almost 10 months since I started coming to Scouts on a Friday night. Hopefully I have found my feet since my last role as an Assistant Scout Leader with the 33rd Wallasey Sea Scouts after a break of 8 years.

Lots of things have changed in this time especially the Challenge Badges but I now have a good idea of what this means. I have regained my Warrant and Nights Away permit and have had five nights away with the Scouts including a very enjoyable group camp at the HQ.

The week after I first started the Scouts went off to the District Cub Camp at Queen Charlotte Woods which I believe they all enjoyed. November saw us visit the Transport Museum in Birkenhead. We also carried out a program of pioneering, knots and lashing and had an introduction to fire lighting. In December due to the Christmas Post we had a Bowling Night at Bromborough and also a rather muddy Night Hike that took us from the HQ via Harrock Woods, The Irby Mill (not visited though), Royden Park, Thurstaston Common and back to the HQ.

In the spring term we concentrated on the Fitness and Creative Challenges. For the Fitness section we measured our performance during circuit training, whilst for the Creative challenge we performed a short play, carried out problem-solving exercises and planned murals for the Scout Hut. However, finishing the murals has been placed on hold until we redecorate the Scout Room as part of the DIY badge – sleep-over date to be arranged.

In February we attended the first of two practice/training days for Backwoods Cooking run by District that gave ideal opportunities for the scouts to develop skills in this area. We were visited by 3 doctors from the Liverpool School of Medicine who ran a CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) instruction evening.

We attended the final Backwoods Cooking practice and the District Bowling Competition in March and although we didn't finish amongst the leaders everyone had a good time.

April saw 12 Scouts and 2 leaders attend the Great Escape Weekend run by Mersey County. This is a competition where patrols of 6 compete in 15 problem-solving tasks over the weekend. Both patrols performed very well. We also had a good turnout for St Georges Day.

In May and June there was the Group Camp at the HQ when we competed in the Backwoods Cooking competition and hiked back from Moreton. Also the District Five-a-side competition was held at Arrowe Park where we narrowly avoided qualifying for the finals (on goal difference!). Most recently we accompanied the Cubs to the District Camp at Hadlow Fields where we had a

brilliant day at Manley Mere and hiked home on the Sunday along the Wirral way, a distance of 9 miles.

Throughout all this time we have seen a steady increase in troop numbers and are now up to 3 patrols, Foxes, Peewits and Tigers. None of this would have been possible without the help of many people so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parents and Leaders that have given time on and off the rota. With special thanks to Julie Hobson for taking on the Paperwork!

Finally I would like to thank Sue Flush and the leader team, and Ray Dugdale and the Committee members for making me feel so welcome and supporting me in the group.

Andy Costall – Scout Leader

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ray Dugdale stood down as Chairman. Sue Flush as Group Scout Leader appointed Ray Dugdale as Chairman and Jayne Barnes as Vice Chairman.

Ray Dugdale proposed Doug Funnell as Treasurer and Marjorie Reed as Secretary. Both accepted by Group Council.

Sue Flush as GSL appointed four members of the executive committee.
Appointed Officers: Dave Reed, Vic Allen, Rob Noble and Wendy Thompson.

Ray Dugdale, as spokesman for the Group Council, proposed the election of Fiona Hurley, Mike Davies, Alan Parr and Conrad Toohey to the Exec.
Proposal accepted by the meeting.

The Group Council co-opted the following persons: Fergus Lang, Gill Burton, John Burton, Steve Hare and Roger Newton.

Each section can have a representative to attend Group Council meetings but no appointments were made at the AGM. The GSL will talk to parents after the summer recess.

The Chairman welcomed the guest speaker, Ken Jones, District Commissioner.

GUEST SPEAKER – KEN JONES DC

Ken was pleased to see so many people attending the AGM and said that the group was doing very well after a difficult start to the year. - so well in fact that the Group won the President's Prize. He was delighted to welcome Emily as a young leader in the Beaver section, especially as she had independently volunteered. He thanked all the uniformed leaders for their work over the last year. He wished the Group another successful year and then made the following three awards:

Wood Badge.....Sue Flush (2nd badge)
Wood Badge.....Jon Oliver
30 years in Scouting..... Keith Quayle

AWARDS

Beaver Section

Beavers of the Year: Callum Ebbs and Christopher Baker

Beaver of the Month: Adam Gooseman

Kind Beaver: Ben Murphy

Four Beavers were invested and several badges awarded.

Cub Section

Cubs of the Year: Oliver Courtney and Christopher Davies

Sportsmanship Award: Carrick Hurley and Riley Nolan

Some cubs made their Promise in front of their parents after investiture at camp. Several badges were awarded to the boys and silver awards were presented to three boys.

Scout Section

Scout of the Year: Jess Jones

Scoutcraft Award: John Fieldhouse

Best Attendance: Daniel Webster

Best Appearance: Christopher Gray

GSL AWARDS:

Dave Reed: Honorary President

Matthew Jones: Outstanding Service

Leaders Children: Resilience Award

Presentation was made to Ray Dugdale (who retires as Chairman later in the year) to thank him for his service to the Group.

Ray thanked everyone for attending and invited them to the BBQ which followed immediately after the meeting.

The flag was lowered by Matthew Jones.