

GSL Annual Report  
for  
AGM 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The Group

Over the past year it has been all change here at the 1<sup>st</sup> Coddington Scout Group. We have seen all leadership positions change hands.

It all started, for me, at the end of 2008 when I agreed to join the Cubs leadership team as an assistant. I felt that I could not become the Cub Scout Leader as my job took me away too much.

However once on board the usual happens and we found out that the person currently running the Cubs decided that enough was enough and with the wave of the magic wand I became the Cub Leader with the GSL covering while I was at work.

We began with myself, the GSL and a Explorer youth leader. We recruited two parents to the team as Assistant leaders.

Then the Group Scout Leader found it necessary to leave very suddenly and we were left with No Leadership at the top.

I knew things were needing to be done in other sections and set about finding out where we stood and what needed to be done.

At the time our Beaver Colony leaders were wanting to leave and thankfully had given us a few months notice. This allowed us to search through the district for leaders. In the end we went back to the parents and found Simon and Sally Lambert who stepped in to prevent the closure of the section.

Simon and Sally have done a great job with the section. The Beavers are completing activity badges and have been out to the Air Museum. Simon and Sally are assisted by two Explorer Youth Leaders and also have two parents who have committed their time, one as an Assistant Leader and the other as an Occasional Helper.

Now I know why P.O.R. states that one person cannot do two jobs within the organisation. I was doing more and more. One of the Assistants Cub Leaders could see what I was doing and started to help by doing some of the planning for me. This led to the decision for him to take over from me as Cub Scout Leader so I could concentrate on the role of Group Scout Leader.

So now we have Mark Burrell as Cub Scout Leader. Mark is supported by 2 Youth Leaders, one Explorer Youth Leader, One Occasional Helper and One Assistant Leader. The Cubs have been doing very well completing a number of badges and going out to local places of interest, the Police Station being one of them.

We would like to thank Coddington Tigers for the use of part of their grounds which allowed the Cubs to complete the Athlete badge.

This left the Scout troop. Before I joined the group something happened at a Scout troop meeting and the number of boys attending dropped dramatically. During the year the Scout Master had to leave due to work commitments. This left Stuart Buchan holding the reins. He has stepped up to the position of Scout Master and organised a number of events including night hikes, weekend camps and a canoe course which is currently on going.

The numbers in the Scout troop are now on the rise as the Cubs move up. Over the next couple of years we should get back to full strength again.

Stuart is supported by a youth leader and has two assistant leaders.

We currently have a number of parents who have applied to become Assistant Leaders and are currently being approved.

Even with this number of leaders we need more. There are events which are run within the district that we are having to miss because we still do not have adequate leadership to take the Cubs along.

## The Buildings

Over the past two years we have been trying to tidy up the building in order to make better use of the space. This has been started by the changes which can be seen in the adjacent rooms.

We have many more plans which need to be completed before we can truly say we have an efficient HQ.

The building itself is in need of much repair which is in evidence if you have a look around the grounds.

We also need to put in wheel chair access in order to conform to the current requirements for our building.

This is where you the parents can help. Without your help we have to pay full price to get things done which takes money that we do not have. With your help we can maybe obtain discounts for equipment and purchases and form work parties which can get the jobs completed at a fraction of the cost.

My thanks go out to David Barkham and Ian Fox for all the work that they have done on the remodelling.

I would like to thank the management team at Waitrose who held a team building event at the hut and repainted the inside for us.

## The Future

I can only see growth on the horizon. Our want to join list is long and they are all very local to us so there is not the option to offer people other Scout Groups. There are a number of building developments in the area which will bring us a lot more interest.

In order to handle these numbers I can see us having to form additional sections. This will allow us to handle the numbers in our sections much better as they are currently at maximum levels. We have 20 in the Beavers and 30 in the Cubs.

In an ideal world we would like to reduce the numbers to make the experience much better. Beavers would be better with around 15 and Cubs around 20. There will be flexibility in these numbers but they are our targets.

We are receiving more interest from girls to join the group. Currently we have girls in Cubs and Scouts with more interest all the time.

I would like to see enough interest from parents to form a Fellowship where we can form a pool of people who can provide specific services to the group. This can be an hour a week or an hour a month. Any help is greatly received. If you are interested please get in touch and we will see what we can do.

I would also like to consider a newsletter which can be used to advertise items and services which can be of use to us as a community. It would also allow us to keep you informed of upcoming events.

Our web site has never really got off the ground. We have had the offer of some parental help with rectifying this. Hopefully we will have something working in the near future.

As part of our fund raising program we intend to begin claiming Gift Aid from the Tax man. This will give us an income of more than £1000 a year for doing very little.

There appears to be some confusion over the paying of Subs. Subs are paid in order to cover an annual membership fee which we need to pay Scout Head Quarters. The money also covers any consumables which are used in the general running of the sections.

This year we have set our annual membership fee at £84. This needs to be paid in order to maintain membership of the group and meet our costs to head quarters in Gilwell. Therefore this year we have started payments at £14 per session. With the preparation for Gift Aid we are setting up the ability for paying subs by Standing Order at £7 per month.

Malcolm Baker – Group Scout Leader.