

GSL Annual Report for AGM 12th June 2014

Group Development

Again this year we have seen a drop in numbers. This can be attributed to 3 reasons. We had an unruly element in Scouts which put off a number of the Cubs who just left, more left because they had other activities on a Friday Night. Following a change of leadership in Scouts we had a number who were not happy with the new discipline levels, they just left. This was unfortunate but we will bounce back and be stronger. I must say that the unruly element had joined Scouts without going through the lower sections. All of these have now left. We have one or two who were lively in the lower sections but have settled down as they reached Scouts.

Beavers are maintaining 24 so in the long term we are doing well.

Last year we saw our Explorer Unit close due to the leader stepping back. We are please to see three of our older Scouts move on and form a new 1st Coddington Explorer Unit.

Beavers

Last year we had a change in leadership, Alan moved to lead the Scout section. Kerry stepped in and took over. Kerry has embraced the challenge completely and is putting together a great program.

We talked about reducing the numbers in Beavers to reduce the knock on effect in Scouts. With the current reduction in numbers in Scouts this is no longer necessary. I have a full waiting list for the next 12 months for Beavers.

Beavers attended the group camp at Walesby at the end of May, all had a great time.

Kerry is joined by Robin Clee who has taken the position of Assistant Leader. There are a number of parents who help out on a regular basis. I cannot say thank you enough to everybody for the smooth running of the section.

Cubs

Again, another busy year for the Cubs. This is reflected by the number of badges being presented tonight at the AGM.

As you may have seen and heard, Mark is stepping down at the end of July. Mark will have completed 5 years as Cub Leader - where does the time go. During his leadership we have seen 28 young people attain the Chief Scout Silver and move on to Scouts where they have more challenges.

So far we have not found anyone to replace Mark. I have a couple of parents who have agreed to step in and run the section on a rota while I am away at work. When I am back I will oversee the running of the section. The program will be settled at regular leaders meetings.

Unfortunately there may not be so many external activities unless we can get more parents involved.

My thanks to Mark for the last 5 years and his assistants, Megan, Darrel, the explorers and parents who help out.

Scouts

Alan took over the leadership of the Scout section in September, at which time Nicola decided move on.

Alan has been doing a lot of outdoor cooking including Swedish logs, pit roasting a joint of beef, cooking a pizza in a cardboard box - I believe it was a little over cooked but that is outdoor cooking. They have also cooked bread on an open fire. The Scouts showed the Cubs how to cook a pancake on an upturned tin with tea lights. Interesting.....

The Scouts took part in the County Mad competition at Walesby. We entered 2 teams, I believe they had a good time. Maybe next year we can get them back to the Walesby Challenge.

My thanks to Alan who is regularly assisted by Caroline and any parents who help out.

Explorers

We have reopened our Explorer unit under the watchful eye of Alan. This gives George, Claire and Ethan somewhere to call home as you might say. George is doing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze with his school, his voluntary service is being completed within the group.

Duke of Edinburgh is still ongoing with the 7th Newark keeping our volunteers busy.

Leadership

Faced with a leadership issue we were lucky enough to obtain the services of the development team. We ran two information evenings during Beavers and Cubs meetings earlier in the year. Disappointingly we had very little response to the evenings.

We need parents who are prepared to oversee a section evening and follow a predetermined program. I must emphasize that it will not be difficult. The evening plan will be laid out, I just need people to be in charge for the evening on a rota. This is a proven and successful way of running a section. The team meet on a regular basis to plan the forthcoming few weeks. You just turn up and follow the plan.

There will be a rota on the notice board to put names on.

We also need more help on Scout evenings to make life easier.

Beavers is working well and in time I am hoping that this structure moves through the group.

Buildings

As you can see the East path around the building has been completed. We have the funds to do the West path, work is due to start at the end of June.

The next project will have to be the electric systems within the building. The electrics need to be updated, starting with the lights in the hall as they are old and reluctant to come on. This will be followed by replacing the consumer units and then rewiring the building.

The other projects which we need to get completed are the equipment room and the kitchen. The equipment store needs to have the roof sorted out as we may lose in the next high winds.

Fund Raising

The quiz night on the 7th June was very well attended, thanks to all who came and had a fun night. With their help we raised £672.50 which will help us to start fixing up the electrics in the building.

A big thanks to my wife Amanda for running the night and David and Jane for doing the questions. Thanks to Heather for totaling up the scores assisted by Charlotte, not an easy task. Lastly thanks to my other family members Amy, Trudi, Karen and Gareth. Many thanks to Clare Andrews who helped set up for the Quiz Night we had last December. I must say that without the hard work in the run up and 2 days preparing food by Amanda the night would not go ahead, again thank you.

Our RagBag collection is still going well, this is despite RagBag reducing the amount we get per kilo from 50p to 40p. This would be to cover their rising costs.

The Gift Aid submission gave us £1000 last year, I am working on the next one.

The 200 club is still continuing. We still need more members as only 20% of the current membership are parents of Group Members and the numbers are dropping. We only have 69 members.

We still have a number of organizations using the hall now with the Monday Dance classes and a dog training group using the hall for 50 weeks of the year.

We have had to stop collecting the tin cans for the Neonatal unit at Kingsmill as the return per ton of metal was not realistic. With a shed full of cans they were only going to get a few pounds.

The Future

We still have a good waiting list for Beavers with a few spaces for next year, I am confident that they will go. At present I do not see the need to advertise but I may try to get some posters up in the school.

Over the next few years I see the group growing at a steady pace. Ultimately I am looking to develop a group with a strong core doing plenty of exciting activities and seeing many young people grow and develop into respected members of the community.

Lastly

I would like to thank the people left at home while my leaders are off doing Scouting activities. These are the people who we could not do without as they support my leaders with the work they do here and I am sure they have some input into what goes into the program.

Malcolm Baker – Group Scout Leader