

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2009



Background

The Group is an educational charity established under rules that are common within The Scout Association (“the Association”). It is registered with the Association under reg. no. 24821 and with the Charity Commission under reg. no. 1067169. The governing document of the Association is the Royal Charter of 1912 as subsequently amended.

The Group has Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, which are based at The Scout Hut, Queen’s Road, Gossoms End, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association. The trustees are the Group Executive Committee, and may include *ex officio* members, those elected by the Group Council, those nominated by the Group Scout Leader, and co-opted members.

The trustees during the year under review, and the subsequent changes, were:

Lucille Aiton – chairman (to 28 June 2009)
Judy Grundy – Beaver Leader
Nigel Atkinson – treasurer (to 28 June 2009)
Gill Lord – secretary (to January 2009)
Sarah Davis – secretary (from January 2009)
Lily Donlan – fund raising (to 28 June 2009)

The trustees are supported by a team of assistant treasurers, fundraisers, and parent representatives.

Contact Name and Address

Jo McAulay, 4 South Park Gardens, Berkhamsted HP4 1JA

Review of main activities and achievements

Group: We depend totally on the time and devotion given by the unpaid uniformed leaders and by the unpaid committee members and supporters. Our greatest need at the moment is for more adult assistance. This can either be as a “frontline” section helper, or providing vital support “backstage”. All necessary training is provided free. It is not essential to have previously been a Scout or a Guide. The Group Executive Committee is changing, with Lucille Aiton and Nigel Atkinson stepping down at the AGM. Sarah Davis has taken over as Secretary from Gill Lord during the year. Fiona O’Grady is taking over as Treasurer from Nigel, Jo McAulay is going to be our Group Scout Leader and Anu Grey has offered to take care of our hall hiring. Our thanks to all these for their past and future work! We are still looking for a chairman, so if anyone wants to know more please contact Andy Robinson.

Beaver Scouts: The Beavers have again had a busy year, which began with the St George’s Day Parade in Berkhamsted, followed in July by the District BBQ in Wendover Woods with an Olympic Games theme. Parents and siblings were invited to the BBQ at Phasels. Badge work has included Healthy Eating, Hobby, and Promise Challenge. The Japanese festival of Shichigosan was celebrated in November, and the Chinese New Year in February. Money was raised for Children in Need by making and selling biscuits. A Spring Watch took place in March. There are 17 Beavers at present.

Cub Scouts: The Monday Cub Pack ended the year on 26, with 9 boys arriving and 6 moving on. The two Richards made a bit of a change this year, and we got stuck in to the Fitness Challenge and Global Challenge Badges. We also had our first ever trip to the swimming pool with everyone getting a Swimmers badge. The subsequent 2nd place at the swimming gala was the best in years, plus 4th at County, and 2nd place in the 6-a-side. Wow! We visited to the Boxmoor Trust, and cooked pancakes on tins, and who can forget the truly memorable fluorescent curry and fish paste cakes we made for the quiz night. We took 22 boys to a dry Cub Camp 2008, unlike the previous year! And a final thanks to 1st Berkhamsted for Spooky Night at Halloween.

At the last AGM we made a request for help to start another Cub pack because we thought we had sufficient numbers and we wanted to start a mixed girls and boys pack. We are glad to say that many people came forward and we started the Friday pack in September. From that start we now have a strength of 27 girls and boys, four adult leaders and nearly all of the Mums and Dads take an active role as adult helpers. In our first year we have managed to go on the Remembrance Day Parade and the St George's Day Parade and paraded some very smartly turned out Cubs indeed. We have had quite a few parties through the year; Halloween, Christmas and for Comic Relief do something funny for money we all wore out pyjamas and had a charity games evening. As a pack we have completed the Communications Badge and the Cycling badge and many of the Cubs have several individual badges. So all in all things are going really well for the Friday pack and we hope to have our first camp in July. A huge thank you to all of those people too numerous to mention, who stepped up to help us from all areas.

Scouts: Numbers are increasing rapidly from the low 20's in January, to 35 around the end of March, and are projected to be 50 by the end of the year. This is due to the recently opened second Cub Pack feeding us and to direct joiners. Summer camp in 2008 was our 4th visit to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland, with the programme including camping, swimming in an Alpine lake, a trip to the top of the Jungfrau (3,454m), mountain hikes and sleeping in a mountain hut. As usual we are running about one weekend camp a month throughout the year. For more details have a look at the camp reports and photos in the Scouts section of the Group website and also at the Calendar: www.1stgossomsendscouts.org.uk

Scout Hut: Maintenance and renovations are ongoing, with improvements to the car park lighting, toilet refurbishments, upgraded fire escape doors, new entrance doors, fitted blinds in all rooms, upgrading the central heating system to a 2-zone system and insulation of the table store room. Thanks to Grassroots who awarded us a grant last month to replace the floor in our main hall.

Accounts: The accounts, on page 4, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis, consistent with the previous year. The General Fund shows receipts exceeding payments by £1,041 during the year, and with a balance of £9,151. Hut maintenance and improvement costs were higher in the previous year, but heating costs were well down. The main income tax reclaim was received just after the end of the financial year. The Camp Fund shows a large excess of payments over receipts in this financial year, as fees for the 2008 summer camp in Switzerland had been received in the previous financial year. The year-end balance represents fees received for future camps (less expenditure already incurred) and money set aside for spending on camping equipment. All Grant Fund money received had been expended at 31 March 2009, including the £2,000 grant for equipment received during the year.

Approved by the Group Executive Committee and signed on its behalf:

Lucille Aiton – 28 June 2009

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Independent Examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee

Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2009

I report on the accounts of 1st Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2009, which are set out on page 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), as amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2006, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the 1993 Act, as amended);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended); and
- 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity 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 such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act;
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Robinson

36 Trevelyan Way, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1JH

28 June 2009

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP
Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009

Receipts & Payments Account	Funds:	General	Grants	Camps	Total	Total
		(unrestricted)	(restricted)	(restricted)	31.3.09	31.3.08
		31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.08
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Subscriptions - for calendar year		7,975	0	0	7,975	5,484
less: National and District subscriptions		3,273	0	0	3,273	2,270
Group subscriptions		4,702	0	0	4,702	3,214
Donations and general grants		447	0	0	447	370
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations		440	0	0	440	1,898
Fund raising/events		109	0	0	109	142
Grants towards equipment/cavity wall insulation		0	2,000	0	2,000	100
Hall lettings		5,333	0	0	5,333	5,670
Camp fees etc		0	0	11,750	11,750	21,687
Interest		125	0	130	255	148
Total Receipts		11,156	2,000	11,880	25,036	33,229
Payments						
Hall maintenance		3,491	0	0	3,491	1,190
Hall - cavity wall insulation		0	0	0	0	1,050
Hall - electricity, gas and water		1,563	0	0	1,563	3,105
Insurance - hall & contents		872	0	0	872	832
Camps		2,000	0	22,703	24,703	7,161
Weekly activities, badges, scarves, etc		287	0	0	287	1,499
Leader/adult training		0	490	0	490	350
Camping equipment		1,902	2,000	333	4,235	408
Fund raising/events		0	0	0	0	227
Total Payments		10,115	2,490	23,036	35,641	15,822
Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)		1,041	(490)	(11,156)	(10,605)	17,407
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2008		8,110	490	16,161	24,761	7,354
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2009		9,151	0	5,005	14,156	24,761

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2009

	31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.09	31.3.08
	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary Assets					
National Westminster Bank	76	0	0	76	5,285
HSBC	0	0	3,563	3,563	15,612
Nationwide Building Society	20	0	0	20	2,222
CAF Bank	9,055	0	0	9,055	1,003
Cash	0	0	1,442	1,442	639
	9,151	0	5,005	14,156	24,761
Income Tax claims	1,500	0	0	1,500	100
Debtors - inc hall lettings and subscriptions	1,100	0	0	1,100	0
Non-Monetary Assets - for own use					
Freehold property in Queen's Road, Berkhamsted - vested in The Scout Association Trust Corporation					
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc					
Liabilities due within one year					
Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	500	0	0	500	100
The balance in the Camps Fund represents £1,545 received for future camps (net of advance expenses) and £3,460 for the future replacement of camping equipment.					

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 28 June 2009
and signed on its behalf by:

Lucille Aiton - Chairman

Nigel Atkinson - Treasurer