

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2010



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 registered number 24821 and with the Charity Commission under registered number 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, Queens Road, Gossoms End, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU. The Akeman Explorer Scout Unit, which also uses The Scout Hut, is administered as part of West Herts District Scout Council (registered charity no. 302518) and is not dealt with in the Annual Report and Accounts of the 1st Gossoms End Scout Group.

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 to date were:

Lucille Aiton	to 28 June 2009 (Group Chairman)
Lily Donlan	from 28 June 2009 (Group Chairman), (previously - fund raising)
Jo McAulay	from 26 April 2009 (Group Scout Leader)
Judy Grundy	(Beaver Leader)
Nigel Atkinson	to 28 June 2009 (Group Treasurer)
Fiona O'Grady	from 28 June 2009 (Group Treasurer)
Sarah Davis	(Group Secretary)

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Contact Name and Address

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

Review of main activities, achievements and future plans

Group: This has been another successful year for the Group. The sections are thriving, thanks to the leaders, the assistants and to the committee members and supporters. The group depends completely on the time and commitment given by all of these unpaid volunteers. Ideally, additional Beaver and Scout sections should be started to meet the demand for places, but these would require more adult assistance and this is needed now by the existing sections. In common with the Scout Movement generally, our need for more adult help is pressing. It is not essential to have previously been a Scout or a Guide, and all necessary training is free. As shown above, there have been several changes to the Group Executive Committee and particular thanks are due to those who relinquished or took up positions of responsibility.

The Group's website has, thanks to Louise Towler, been redesigned. See: www.1stgossomsendscouts.org.uk. With the aid of a grant from Grassroots, the Scout Hut has been further improved with new flooring in the main hall and in the kitchen, toilets and corridor. After protracted applications, a £10,000 grant has been promised towards the cost of a 16-seater second-hand minibus. A further £10,000 has still to be found. This purchase will be of

considerable benefit – in removing the limitation on numbers that can be transported in Leaders' cars, avoiding expensive hiring, and providing flexibility for outside activities on meeting nights.

Beaver Scouts: Beaver numbers have increased from 17 to 21, with a high throughput of 14 Beavers having moved up to Cubs. 3 Beavers achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Awards and another 3 are working towards this. Meetings during the year have focussed on learning about the environment and conservation. Outdoor events and activities included the St George's Day Parade, a challenging County Fun Day at Tolmers, the annual District BBQ in Wendover Woods, our own BBQ at Phasels, and the District Christmas Hike with a search for Rudolph in the dark followed by campfire songs and a visit by Father Christmas.

Cub Scouts: The Monday Cub Pack ended the year on 24, with 9 arriving and 11 moving on. They continued working on the challenge badges – Fitness and Promise, and also completed Music and Entertainer badges. The trip to the swimming pool this year paid off with everyone passing their badge, and the pack then achieved 1st place in the District Swimming Gala. Pancakes were cooked on tins, and the building of a huge skeleton was started as part of Day of The Dead festival. 26 Cubs were taken to Phasels Wood Cub Camp 2009, more than ever before. It has been a trying year with work commitments reducing the leadership team to just one. With just one Leader the future of the Monday pack is in doubt. New leaders are required now.

The Friday Pack, started in September 2008, has 30 Cubs both girls and boys. There is a very full waiting list that is shared with the Monday Pack. The three leaders are supported by a willing rota of parents. The first camp was held at Phasels Wood and the pack participated in both the St Georges Day and Remembrance Day parades. Individual badge work led to many of the Cubs achieving badges in: cycling, music, martial arts and collecting. Models were made out of recycled components as part of the arts and craft badge. There were several visits to Ashridge to play outside games as well as building shelters in the woods. Two visits were made to Quasar - one as challenge match with the Monday Pack. The pack camped at the Docklands Scout Project in London's Docklands, sleeping onboard the Training Ship Lord Amory and participating in rowing, canoeing, kayaking and dinghy sailing.

Scouts: Numbers are up to 36, with two Cub packs feeding in. Unfortunately direct entries cannot now be accepted as we can barely cope at this size. As usual a full programme was held, with the emphasis on camping activities. Easter camp was held in Jersey, and Summer camp in North Wales. A weekend sailing camp was held in August, the County "Green Beret" competition at Gilwell Park was attended in November, and the Winter camp for PLs at the end of December included navigation training in a blizzard in North Wales. Teams were entered in the District Raft Race and in the Swimming Gala. There are more details and photos in the "closed/private" Facebook group that was set up last August to publish event information without it appearing on the publicly accessible website, and under camp reports in the Scouts section of the Group website.

Accounts: The accounts, on page 4, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis, as in previous years. The General Fund shows receipts exceeding payments by £3,251 during the year, and with a balance of £12,402. Receipts from hall lettings increased by over £2,300, and are now providing the main source of general income. As usual, the income tax reclaims were received just after the end of the financial year. The Camps & Activities Fund includes receipts and payments for camps planned for later in this calendar year and also holds money set aside for spending on activities and equipment. All Grant Fund money received had been expended at 31 March 2010. The levels of reserves held are thought to be appropriate to meet future commitments and contingencies.

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

Lily Donlan – 14 June 2010

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Independent Examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee (the charity's Trustees)

Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2010

I report on the accounts of 1st Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2010, 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act;

have not been kept, or

(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

14 June 2010

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP
Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010

Receipts & Payments Account	Funds:			Total	Total
	General (unrestricted)	Grants (restricted)	Camps & Activities (restricted)		
	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.09 £
Receipts					
Subscriptions - for calendar year	9,238	-	-	9,238	7,975
less: National and District subscriptions	3,996	-	-	3,996	3,273
Group subscriptions	5,242	-	-	5,242	4,702
Donations and general grants	162	-	-	162	447
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations	1,477	-	-	1,477	440
Fund raising events	229	-	-	229	109
Grants towards hall floor/equipment	-	4,125	-	4,125	2,000
Hall lettings	7,655	-	-	7,655	5,333
Camps	-	-	2,725	2,725	7,709
Fees for future camps	-	-	5,430	5,430	3,005
Activities	-	-	560	560	1,036
Interest	12	-	-	12	255
Total Receipts	14,777	4,125	8,715	27,617	25,036
Payments					
Hall maintenance	2,811	-	-	2,811	3,491
Hall - new floor	650	4,125	-	4,775	-
Hall - electricity, gas and water	1,897	-	-	1,897	1,563
Insurance - hall & contents	887	-	-	887	872
Camps	2,000	-	4,496	6,496	23,243
Expenses of future camps	-	-	2,882	2,882	1,460
Activities	905	-	1,429	2,334	777
Camping & general equipment	2,376	-	1,030	3,406	4,235
Total Payments	11,526	4,125	9,837	25,488	35,641
Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)	3,251	-	(1,122)	2,129	(10,605)
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2009	9,151	-	5,005	14,156	24,761
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2010	<u>12,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,883</u>	<u>16,285</u>	<u>14,156</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2010

	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.10 £	31.3.09 £
Monetary Assets					
CAF Bank	12,306	-	-	12,306	9,055
HSBC	-	-	2,914	2,914	3,563
National Westminster Bank	76	-	-	76	76
Nationwide Building Society	20	-	-	20	20
Cash	-	-	969	969	1,442
	<u>12,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,883</u>	<u>16,285</u>	<u>14,156</u>
Income Tax claims	2,460	-	-	2,460	1,500
Debtors - inc hall lettings & subscriptions	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,100
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	850	-	-	850	500
The £3,883 balance in the Camps & Activities Fund represents £2,548 received for future camps (net of advance expenses) and £1,335 for future activities and purchase of equipment.					

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 14 June 2010
and signed on its behalf by:

Lily Donlan - Chairman Fiona O'Grady - Treasurer