

DISTRICT BEAVER SCOUT LEADERS MEETING

2nd May 2013

Hobbs Hill Wood School

PRESENT.

Andy Glass	District		Lynn Morgan	1 st Bennetts End
Sue Minter	1 st Hemel		Mick Donley	1 st Bovington
Fran Penfold	1 st Bennetts End		Kevin Mills	1 st Apsley (Bullrushes)
Ingrid Allen	1 st Kings Langley		Suzanne Ford	3 rd Boxmoor
Lynley Meyers	2 nd Hemel Hempstead			

APOLOGIES.

Kirstie Humphrey, 1st Warners End; Anabele Westerdale, 1st Leverstock Green (Riverbank); Penny Povey, 1st Leverstock Green (Woodland).

Andy opened the meeting at 8.00pm welcoming all present and thanked them for coming, he then went on to explain why Rae was not present, the reason being that she has decided to stand down as ADC Beavers. It was advised, following the DCs e-mail of Sunday 10th February that we currently have no ADC Beavers, Cubs or Scouts so Andy is overseeing all 6-14 Sections in the short term until suitable replacements can be found. The intention is to progress this during the coming summer term with the hope being that we will be able to source suitable representation for each section, hopefully by September. It was discussed that this might be in the form of an ADC per section, or alternatively a team to jointly undertake the duties and roles of ADC, the intention is to get the correct model to work for the sections as opposed to necessarily following the previous model.

Andy stressed that these meetings are for the Leaders and that that District support would be made available as required to ensure quality Scouting is available for as many youngsters in Hemel Hempstead as wished to get involved. It was advised that the commitment of the District team is to ensure that this support is made available to all sections to allow them to deliver on this aspiration. Rules to manage within the District will be Scout Association POR and any additional rules getting in the way of this delivery will be avoided where possible. The question was asked exactly what the Beaver Leaders wanted from these meetings and they were all asked to give this some thought for discussion at the next meeting.

It was also advised that the District is keen to encourage Groups working together. Discussion around the fact that some smaller Groups struggle to be able to organise and run activities for themselves took place and the fact was noted that one Group on occasions works with another District to enable them to put on events of a scale which makes economic sense. It was stressed that these type of working relationships across our District would be preferable and that this type of meeting should be able to deliver working arrangements of this type. District are keen to allow this

type of activity across Groups to ensure opportunities are available for our youngsters, keeping the District Team (in the form of Andy Glass currently) advised of this going on is acceptable, if there is considered a need for District involvement Andy will be able to supply this information.

Leaders present took the opportunity to introduce themselves, advise which Group they were from and gave a potted history of their Scouting experience.

There being no prepared agenda for this meeting the previous format whereby recent activities undertaken were discussed was followed. The last meeting of the Beaver section having taken place almost one year ago there were a number of the older events skipped over:

CHRISTMAS PARTY. Following on from discussions at recent Cub Leaders meeting it was agreed that the format used for Beavers is still workable but that it was probably inappropriate for Cub age children. The idea of holding a Christmas party on alternate years was discussed and was generally accepted as a good idea. Intention on the other years would be to attend a panto, various places where this would be possible were discussed. Boxmoor Playhouse was a popular suggestion although it was advised that this pantomime only takes place on alternate years. On that basis intention was to proceed with a Christmas party in 2013 and to look at a District panto trip in 2014.

The clash which took place in 2012 between the Beaver Christmas party and the Christmas Winter Wonderland event at Phasels was felt to have contributed to the reduced numbers who attended. It was suggested that this was not also the dates, but also the additional cost to parents at what is already a very expensive time of year. **Action:** Christmas party organisers to be made aware to ensure any clash is avoided this year.

EASTER EGG HUNT: This was again a popular event for those Groups who took part with all of the attending Beavers having enjoyed it. That said, turnout was disappointing with only three Groups represented this year.

There was a discussion around the fact that getting a rolling two year programme of events of this type would be useful to ensure Beavers do not keep doing the same activities each year. Suggestion was made that to have one event early in the year and one in the latter part would be useful to try and make sure we utilise the weather we should get. Suggestions made around activities were Easer Egg Hunt/Scavenger Hunt/Tracking activity/Sausage sizzle. **Action:** To discuss these options at next Beaver Section meeting.

ST GEORGES DAY: Discussion took place around the recent St Georges Day/promise renewal at Phasels. Feedback was uniformly positive with everyone who had taken part having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One item of feedback for the event at Phasels was that some form of map whereby people could work out the location of the programme zones would have been useful. The possibility of a District family camp for 2014 was discussed and generally well accepted. The question was raised that by having taken this years event to Phasels we have not had a substantive presence in the town centre, options being considered around having a more activity based event in town where people can see some of the activities we take part in was mentioned.

Discussion then took place around forthcoming events:

District Sports Day. This was scheduled to take place on 2nd June, however, with no planning in place for this or a team in place to run the event it had been decided prior to this meeting that this date would be cancelled. It was discussed at this meeting and an alternative date of Saturday 28th September put in place. The package of events which had been organised for last year's event (which was cancelled due to heavy rain on the day) is intended to be reused. **Action:** Suzanne Ford checking to see if we are able to use Lockers Park school for this event as had been planned last year. It was felt that if we could use this location, being within the town and keeping the relationship going with the school we should try and do that. Timings for this event were considered to be 1.30 pm ~ 4.00 pm.

DISTRICT AGM 21ST MAY. Venue Phasels Wood. This will be the required formal meeting. It will not this year be a part of an activity evening. There will be a photo presentation as an agenda item during this meeting to ensure that all are able to see what Groups within the District have been up to in the last year. **Action:** Anyone wishing to contribute photos for this event, please get them to Andy Glass as soon as possible. This is a worthwhile event and a good opportunity to catch up with other Leaders in the District. As a sweetener, there will be a buffet provided by Sheila.

Forthcoming meetings:

Intention is that going forward there will be two meetings per term for Leaders. One will continue in this type of format where sections will meet independently at a location agreed. Intention for Beavers is to alternate these meetings between Tuesdays and Thursdays to try and cater for all Leaders being able to attend. Second meeting per term will be all sections together, lead off where needed by a short session run by the DC, followed by break outs into individual sections. Sessions with DC will be short, sweet and to the point. In the event that there is nothing of note to be shared by the DC this session will be cancelled and individual section meetings only will take place.

25th July: All sections meeting at Phasels Wood. Plans for this meeting include an activity swapping session and potentially some brain storming to determine the wishes/needs of each section. In addition it is intended to have a barbecue and to run some of the onsite activities for Leaders. This is to act as thank you to Leaders for their participation and to engender some form of social activity across Leaders.

5th September: All sections, venue to be decided but probably Hobbs Hill Wood school.

12th November: Hobbs Hill Wood School, Beaver Section Leaders.

January 2014: All sections.

March 2014: Individual sections.

AOB:

The possibility of holding a District Beaver sleepover was discussed. Various possibilities were talked about, from using the facilities at Phasels Wood, to the fact that the Science Museum is apparently

able to be used for this type of activity with all catering included. **Action:** Andy Glass to get details of what would be on offer from Phasels Wood. **Action:** Lynley Meyers to get information on the Science Museum. To be discussed at next Beaver meeting.

The subject of training was discussed. Leaders suggested that more local training would be of benefit to them. Andy advised that the whole area of training is currently being looked at and one possibility that is being investigated is supplying required modules in a local environment and hopefully in a more interactive and engaging way than sometimes currently is the case. Intention is that this will commence in September 2013 with members being assigned specific dates where training will be conducted. The methods of verifying training modules was discussed as being something that ADCs or equivalents could be able to undertake for Leaders as part of their visits to Groups. It was also advised that there are regular training and verification evenings run by the District. It was obvious that a number of people were not aware of these evenings. **Action:** Andy to find out from Steve Harris if e mails to all District members are possible to advertise these evenings. **Action:** Andy to find out if running a short training module is possible as a start to these Section Leaders meetings.

E mail: A general conversation took place around the use of email, it was suggested that all communication should be done this way. It was advised that not all Groups are set up for this at this stage but that if Groups wanted everything electronically they should make their wishes known.

It was separately noted that members need to make sure that their e mail address on the National Database is kept up to date as this is where the District e mail feed comes from. Individual members can update their contact details at www.scouts.org.uk If members do not have a login and password for this site they should be able to register to get one. If this is not possible please let someone within the District team know and we can get this information updated for you.

Andy also requested that forwarding of this message to members is important to make sure we have contact details for everyone. He again suggested that turnout at this meeting may have been reduced for this reason, the invitation was sent out to in excess of 30 people, however this goes to the details held for folks and if they have changed we really need to know.

Andy thanked everyone for attending and noted that the turnout on this occasion was extremely good. He encourages others who have possibly not been able to make these meetings recently to try and get along to subsequent ones to make sure all of the voices within the District are heard and that we are able to deliver what the majority wish.

Their being on other business meeting closed at 9.45pm.

NEXT MEETING 8PM 12th November at Hobbs Hill Wood School.