

DISTRICT BEAVER SCOUT LEADERS MEETING

12th November 2013

Hobbs Hill Wood School

PRESENT.

Andy Glass	District		Lynn Morgan	1 st Bennetts End
Nikki Wycislik	4 th Boxmoor		Mick Donley	1 st Bovington
Fran Penfold	1 st Bennetts End		Simon Fancourt	1 st Apsley
Ingrid Allen	1 st Kings Langley		Simon Pilling	1 st Kings Langley
Jo Laurence	3 rd Boxmoor		Chris Mazillius	1 st Gadebridge

APOLOGIES.

Penny Povey, 1st Leverstock Green (Woodland).

Andy opened the meeting at 8.00pm welcoming all present and thanked them for coming. He stressed again that these meetings are for the Beaver Leaders to ensure that they are able to get the support they require to ensure effective running of their Colonies and good quality activities are made available for all of the Beaver Scouts in the District. He again reiterated the intent of the District being the supply of good quality activities on a regular basis to allow effective planning to take place in both the short and longer term. It was also noted again that the District encourages Groups to work together and that previous rules whereby any more than two Groups working together makes an activity 'District' is no longer in place.

A round the table introduction took place to make sure everyone knew everyone else. It was a particular pleasure to welcome some new faces to this meeting.

Following on from this Andy advised the latest status in the quest for a new Assistant District Commissioner for Beaver Scouts, and was able to announce that this role has been accepted by Nikki Wycislik. Nikki is currently Beaver Leader at Watercress Beavers in 4th Boxmoor (St Mary and St Joseph). An exact split of the duties which Nikki will take up as part of this appointment is still to be determined but will be such that they work to the strengths of Nikki, support beyond this will be made available as required and may still take the form of a District Beaver Scout Leader. As previously advised this appointment will be subject to a Review in the early part of 2014 to ensure that it is working successfully for everyone involved. Many thanks were expressed to Nikki for taking on this exciting additional role.

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as being a correct record of that meeting.

B. Review of recent and forthcoming events:

1. Cooking and Camp Fire event: Feedback was generally extremely positive with this having been enjoyed by most Beavers. It was suggested that a number of bases took a long time to complete and some ran out of food for the latter arrivals at the base. This feedback to be passed on to organisers of future events of this type.
2. Gr8 Big Bash (Bear in the air). Feedback again was extremely good. It was considered that there were some issues as regards queuing and inability to take part in some events. There was a general conversation about this unfortunately being a fact when organising an event of this size. The question was asked if we as a District have taken the opportunity to thank Phasels Wood for organising this event. **Action:** Andy to find out and take this to next Beaver Section meeting.
3. Christmas party: Taking place on Sunday 15th December. 1015~1215 at Hobbs Hill Wood. Following feedback from previous parties we have decided to do something different this year. This year we have engaged Colonel Custard <http://www.magiccastle.co.uk/custard.aspx> to entertain the Beavers/Cubs. Unfortunately by the time this was booked the only slot available was such that a joint party was the only way this could be fitted in. Plan is to have Colonel Custard run 1030~1115, games and a Grotto. Beavers/Cubs will be separate for games and grotto. It was discussed and agreed only to give the youngsters a gift and not to have a party bag this year. Intention for 2014 is to look at a Panto instead of a party. We have started exploring this possibility with Boxmoor Playhouse.
4. Swimming. As advised previously, the intention is to put a fixed date in the District Diary for an annual swimming event. Intention is this will alternate between a badge day and a swimming event. For 2014 the date is to be Saturday February 8th. Andy advised that he is in negotiation with Sportspace around this event.
5. St Georges Day. Intention is that we will run an evening for all Sections at Xscape on Wednesday 23rd April. Intention is to run a session for Beavers and Cubs 5pm~7pm, have all sections in place for Promise Renewal 7pm~7.30pm followed by a session for Scouts/Explorers 7.30pm~9.30pm. There will be a nominal charge of £2 per young person for this event this time round to cover some of the costs of what is a relatively expensive location. Additional cost will be picked up by District. Skate park will be available as will climbing wall, caving and high ropes (for those aged 8+). Youngsters will have to bring their own skates/skateboard/bmx to use in the skate park.
6. Beavers Pet Care Day: This was discussed further and it was agreed to try and get this set up for Sunday 26th January. Discussion around whom we could use for this took place with Pets at Home and Oaklands College being discussed. **Action:** Nikki to check with Pets at Home if they can do this date and how many they could cater for. Discussion took place around various Groups who had tried to use Pets at Home for this activity previously with varied success depending on who they had managed to get in contact with. Since this meeting we have also engaged with 'The Animal Shed' who are keen to work with us to deliver this activity.
7. Sport Relief day: Intention is to hold this All Sections day at Hobbs Hill Wood school on Sunday 23rd March. More detail to follow.

8. Scavenger Hunt. Sunday 27th April 2014. Plan is to keep this last Sunday in April available for a Beaver event on an ongoing basis. From previous meetings this will alternate between a scavenger hunt and an Easter Egg Hunt.
9. Tracking event/sausage sizzle. Fixed date for the diary to be decided at next Beaver Section meeting in January 2014.

C. Discussion points from previous meeting.

Nil.

D. District/County News/Future Meetings:

1. Training – The recent initiative to use ‘training trains’ was discussed with some Leaders present having taken part in the first of these trains. This saw 19 Leaders across all section from Hemel District & West Herts do the training Modules Nos 5,6 & 7. Training was done by people passionate about the subject matter and feedback was extremely positive about the day. The plan with this initiative is that three Modules will be delivered on one day in each term which can see a Leader progress to Wood badge within two years. Verification of Modules is not completed on these days and will still require some time to be spent with a Training Advisor to complete this. Next session for Train 1 is due on Saturday 8th February and will cover Modules 14,15 & 17. Train 2 will start in February on Sunday 9th and will cover Modules 5,6 & 7. Intention is that going forward training will take place on one weekend in February, June and October.
2. Training – ‘Trains’ as mentioned above are designed for new leaders, those who are part way through their training however will not be forgotten. To this end there is a training evening at District HQ on 4th December at 8pm. If you need modules signed off come along to this evening to spend some time with a Training Advisor.
3. Training – We have been advised that there is a Module 38 training event taking place in Harpenden on 18/19 January. Undertaking this training and having it verified will qualify Leaders to hold a ‘indoor’ camping permit. This will appear on the County website <http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/about-adult-support/training/> in due course. If you are interested in attending this training please advise Steve Harris (ltm.gtwhite@btinternet.com) directly.
4. Quiz evening – Following the success of the fund raising which was held before the District trip to Holland last year, it has been decided to hold a District Quiz Evening again in 2014. This will take place on Saturday 22nd March at Hobbs Hill Wood school. More detail to follow but please keep this date in your diaries.
5. Next meetings:

Tuesday 7th January – All Sections – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

Thursday 6 March – Beaver Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

Tuesday 20th May – Beaver Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

E. AOB:

1. District funding for Beaver events previously has taken the form of an amount of money being allocated to each event being run by the section. Going forward the proposal is that an amount per member of each section will be available to the section on an annual basis dependent upon the annual census for that section. In the case of Beavers this should be an amount in the region of £450/£500. The way in which this is used will be decided by the Leaders attending these meetings. Please come to the next meeting in January with any suggestions you may have as to how this money could be used. Examples may be; Giving each Group the opportunity to do an activity evening at Phasels funded by the District, subsidising Christmas party/panto for youngsters within the section, purchasing resources for each Group or for District events etc etc. At the end of the day this is up to the Leaders to use as they see fit to best deliver for the Beavers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.