

DISTRICT CUB SCOUT LEADERS MEETING

7th January 2014

Hobbs Hill Wood

PRESENT.

Andy Glass	District		Lorna Glass	1 st Bennetts End
Sheila Neep	District		Dave Jermy	1 st Leverstock Green
Steve Gilden	7 th Hemel		Jacqui Donley	1 st Bovingdon
Sue Stretton	1 st Hemel		Jane Wyton	1 st Warners End
April Parrott-Carter	2 nd Hemel		Sharon Harris	1 st Warners End
Gareth Ford	3 rd Boxmoor		Sue West	4 th Boxmoor
Karen Yilmaz	1 st Bennetts End		Joanna Hartley	1 st Leverstock Green
Dave Fisher	1 st Leverstock Green		Tamsin Watts	1 st Kings Langley
Paul Carl	1 st Leverstock Green		Sue Downham	1 st Kings Langley
Phil McLachlan	1 st Kings Langley			

APOLOGIES.

Julie Randall 1st Bennetts End; Keith Gower 1st Gadebridge.

Andy opened the meeting at 8.15pm welcoming all present and thanked them for coming noting on this occasion the exceptional turnout of Leaders and Assistant Leaders.

The search for an ADC for Cubs was noted as continuing, intention is to bring this to a decision within the next couple of weeks.

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as being a correct record of that meeting.
- B. Attendees would have given brief introductions of themselves had Andy remembered to give them the opportunity.
- C. Review of recent and forthcoming events:
 1. Astronomer badge: Held 24th November 2013 at Hobbs Hill Wood and attended by 120 Cubs from 10 Groups. Feedback generally positive although the time available on some of the bases was noted to have been too short, particularly in cases where making something was required. This lead to some bases being rushed, this in conjunction with the layout of bases within the school lead to some bottlenecks on bases. Suggestion was made that a generic statement on letters for this type of activity to request youngsters to bring a bag to carry material home was put forward. Particular positive feedback was given around the 'eclipse' base where

there was an element of learning for the Cubs. Intention to take forward this Badge activity day on the last Sunday of November was supported and it was agreed that Artist and Scientist will form the rotation with Astronomer. It was discussed that the intention is to develop resource packs for these days to avoid them being any more onerous to organise than necessary. Having resources available does not mean simply churning out the same bases each time, but does allow organisers to have a head start on future occasions. It was also noted that Sheila Neep has taken on the role of Centralised Refreshment Activity Provider and will retain a stock of tea/coffee/cups which can be used at subsequent District Activities.

2. Christmas party: Held at Hobbs Hill on 15th December 2013. Extremely positive feedback throughout, adults and youngsters alike were said to have thoroughly enjoyed Colonel Custard. It was agreed that this should be a two yearly event and will next be done on the middle Sunday of December 2015. Intention would be to have Beavers and Cubs as separate parties to allow tailoring of content accordingly. Colonel Custard has agreed to provide a discount on his normal price in the event that parties can be run back to back. **Action**; Andy to put a booking in place with Colonel Custard for 2015. Discussion then took place around alternate years and agreement was reached that a pantomime would suit everyone. Discussion around venues and potential price options took place. Options discussed were:
 - a. Boxmoor Playhouse
 - b. Watford Palace
 - c. Kings Langley players

It was agreed to come back to the next meeting with some indicative costs for each of these options to agree which venue will be used. **Action**: Paul Carl to obtain detail for Kings Langley; Steve Gilden to obtain detail for Watford Palace; Andy Glass to obtain detail for Boxmoor Playhouse. Pros and cons of each location were discussed and it will be agreed at the next meeting which option to take forward. Kings Langley were noted to run their panto in January, this was felt to be worth exploring as a nice treat for youngsters and adults after the return to school in January.

3. Swimming: Intention for 2014 was to undertake a swimming badge day. Unfortunately delays in obtaining specific information and risk assessments from Sportspace are such that we are one month from this date and there are still uncertainties around cost, logistics and a lack of knowledge if there are any further additional issues. As such it was agreed on this occasion not to go ahead with this activity for Cubs. Discussion around groups having run this activity on their own were such that it was felt that at least 30 minutes would be required to get one youngster through Swimming stage 1 with subsequent stages taking longer periods. Allowing for the fact that this would have to be done in Groups it was generally felt to be extremely difficult to organise within the available time remaining. It was agreed to revisit this on a two year cycle allowing time to get the information required and to allow more robust planning. It was further agreed that a rotation with a Swimming gala/event for Cubs and Scouts was worthwhile. Intention then will be to run Cubs/Scouts swimming gala in 2015. **Action**: Andy to book main pool in Sportspace for this event on second Saturday of February 2015.

4. 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. It was suggested that a number of youngsters may not have access to skates/skateboards/BMX and that checking this out beforehand would be worthwhile. It was stressed that options beyond the skatepark will be limited due to the number of spaces on other activities within the XC.
5. Sport Relief day: Intention is to hold this All Sections day at Hobbs Hill Wood School on Sunday 23rd March. It was felt that running this pm on the Sunday would be more suitable and a time of 2pm~5pm was suggested. It was advised that a fund raising pack has been ordered but that the general type of activity noted as being run for this is a sponsored run/swim/cycle although this does not preclude any other type of activity we may wish. Suggestions around sponsored event or adding a premium onto the activity price were discussed. Consensus was that adding £1 to the activity price as fund raising would be a better way to raise fund for Sports Relief as it was felt that sponsored events would most likely be taking place in schools for this event and asking for additional sponsorship would be difficult. Suggestions were made around linking this to one of the Cub Section Activity badges. Various sporting activities were suggested including three legged running over a distance. It was also discussed around the possibility of being able to use the recent all-weather pitches at Hobbs Hill in the event of poor weather, Sue Stretton and Dave Jermy were volunteers to assist in organising this event.
6. District Night Hike: It was discussed and agreed to hold this event in 2014 on 26th/27th April. Intention as per the previous event was to hold this on a route around Hemel utilising various Group HQs to host activities around the chefs badge, this is an extremely similar event to that held in 2011. Simon from 1st Apsley has been approached and is willing to share the organising he had from running this activity previously. Paul Carl and Dave Fisher volunteered to get involved in organising this activity. The date in question was discussed as being very close to the promise Renewal event but it was agreed to go ahead with this date regardless.
7. District Cub Camp: It was previously discussed and agreed to hold this event 4th~6th July 2014. Options put forward had been Gilwell or Well End. Pros and cons of both sites around location, costs, and available activities were discussed and it was agreed at this meeting to run this camp on a Commonwealth Games theme at Gilwell Park. Location of Gilwell and ease of getting there were discussed and it was agreed that the camp should run from am on Saturday 5th July until pm on Sunday 6th. This will allow Leaders to meet on the Friday to set up camp, allowing parents greater certainty in their journey to Gilwell to drop off youngsters. This was also felt to be worthwhile in that it would also allow Leaders the opportunity to meet each other on an evening without Cubs present. **Action:** Andy to book Gilwell for this

event. Volunteers to assist in organising this event were April Parrott-Carter, Karen Yilmaz, Sue Downham and Jacqui Donley.

8. County Cub Bushcraft Day : Discussion took place around this event and the easiest way to allocate the 15 spaces available to the District. It was agreed to do this on a random draw basis with three Groups each being allocated 5 spaces. Andy to undertake this draw and advise in these minutes the Groups chosen. **If Groups do not wish to participate Andy Glass needs to know by 15th January 2014 to allow the offer to be made to the next reserve from the draw.** Discussion took place around the suitability of this event for age ranges of Cubs, general agreement was that it was probably best suited to 6ers although this will be the decision of the Cub Scout Leader as to who may attend. Letters from County relating to this event will be forwarded with these minutes. Returns for this event to be made by February 22nd to Wendy Teirney. Results of draw were:
 - a. 3rd Boxmoor
 - b. 1st Apsley
 - c. 1st Kings LangleyAlternatives were drawn in the event that any of the above Groups cannot/do not wish to participate.
9. District Family Camp: Intention is to hold this in conjunction with ASAP at Phasels weekend of 12 – 14th September 2014.
10. Possible events for 2015 were noted as being:
 - a. Sixer & Seconder Day
 - b. Cub Fun Day
 - c. Tudor Challenge
 - d. Conker Competition.

D. Discussion points from previous meeting.

1. Nil

E. District/County News/Future Meetings:

Training activity and Quiz Evening notes were briefly discussed. Minutes from previous meeting in relation to these events are repeated below as still being relevant.

1. Training – The recent initiative to use ‘training trains’ was discussed. 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 5th April at Hobbs Hill Wood school. More detail to follow but please keep this date in your diaries.
5. Next meetings:
 - Thursday 6 March – Cub Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm
 - Tuesday 20th May – Cub Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 7.30 pm

F. AOB:

1. District Funding per section was discussed briefly. As previously there will be an amount of £2 per youth member made available to each section based on the 2014 census return in January 2014. Discussion as to how this might be spent again took place. The option of subsidising costs for District Cub Camp was put forward. Leaders to come to next meeting with ideas of how this money should be used, it was noted that if we do not use it, we run the risk of losing it. Purchasing of resources for activity badge days was also put forward as a suggestion.
2. It was advised at the previous meeting that there may be a possibility of using some of the facilities at Adeyfield School following an approach from them. This to be explored further.

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