

DISTRICT CUB SCOUT LEADERS MEETING

6th March 2014

Hobbs Hill Wood

PRESENT.

Andy Glass	District		Lorna Glass	1 st Bennetts End
Sheila Neep	District		Steve Pearce	1 st Bovington
Mary Plunkett	2 nd Hemel		Sue Downham	1 st Kings Langley
Val Clarke	1 st Leverstock Green		Jane Wyton	1 st Warners End
Richard Haynes	1 st Leverstock Green		Keith Gower	1 st Gadebridge
Kay Evans	1 st Apsley		Sue West	4 th Boxmoor
Karen Yilmaz	1 st Bennetts End			
Dave Fisher	1 st Leverstock Green			
Paul Carl	1 st Leverstock Green			
Phil McLachlan	1 st Kings Langley			
Simon Fancourt	1 st Apsley			

APOLOGIES.

Julie Randall 1st Bennetts End; Joanna Hartley 1st Leverstock Green; Dee Willmore 1st Apsley; April Parrot-Carter 2nd Hemel; Steve Gilden 7th Hemel; Richard Weller 1st Kings Langley; Gareth Ford 3rd Boxmoor.

Andy opened the meeting at 8.00pm welcoming all present and thanked them for coming.

Andy advised attendees that the search for an ADC Cubs had reached a successful conclusion and that Paul Carl has agreed to accept this role. As with all recent District roles this will also be subject to review after a reasonably short period of time to ensure that the appointment has proven successful, both for Paul and for the Cub Leaders within the District. Paul will also be continuing with his role as an Assistant Cub Leader at 1st Leverstock Green. It was advised that Andy would chair the meeting on this evening but that Paul would thereafter take over responsibility for the role of ADC Cubs.

It was further advised at this point that filling this role is not the end of the development of the District Team for 6~14 year olds. It is intended that Andy and the ADCs will get together at some stage in the near future to determine what additional requirements there may be to ensure successful running of the Sections across this age group. It is not known what any additions may look like but this will be explored further and advised at subsequent meetings.

An announcement to the effect that Paul was the new ADC Cubs had been made on Wednesday 5th March. It appears that e mail failure has resulted in approximately half of those on the District e mail system receiving this announcement twice, while others had not received this notification at all.

Action: Andy to make sure this announcement is posted on District website to make sure it is known to a wider audience.

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as being a correct record of that meeting.
- B. Attendees took the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves to others in attendance.
- C. Review of recent and forthcoming events:
1. Christmas party: This item was followed up on with it being advised that Colonel Custard has been booked for the Christmas party in 2015. Booking is in place for Sunday 13th December. Timings of party will be confirmed at a later date but Colonel Custard is booked for a party for Beavers 1400~1445 and for Cubs 1515~1600 on that date. Booking consecutive parties has allowed a reduction in rate to be negotiated and will also allow a better tailoring of content to the age groups attending.
 2. Christmas pantomime 2014: We are still awaiting detail for Boxmoor Playhouse to allow us to decide whether to attend Boxmoor or Kings Langley. Information has been chased again to allow a decision to be arrived at during next Cub Leaders meeting in May 2014.
 3. Swimming: Booking requested for a swimming event in February 2015. Sportspace to confirm.
 4. St Georges Day. It was advised that several Leaders had undertaken a visit to the XC in preparation for this event. Some points noted were: some areas were considered inappropriate for younger age groups and will be cordoned off (bowl); under 8's will need to be accompanied by an adult on a 1:1 ration whilst in skate park; All youngsters will require to wear a helmet whilst in skate park (peaked bicycle helmets are not recommended); knee/elbow pads are optional but recommended; all activities will take place within the constraints of the XC Risk Assessments; when completing application form please ensure all preferences are noted to try and ensure the correct allocation of activities takes place. A question was asked as to parking at the XC, it was advised that normal parking at Jarman park is still available and that normal entry remains available after which the Jarman Park building can be driven around. In addition entry can also be gained through the previous exit which is now two way. It was further advised that bikes can be used in the skate park, provided they are single gear, BMX type.
 5. Sport Relief day: Letters for this event are out with responses to Maureen Shelley by 7th March. Discussion took place around attendance and it was suggested that there was not a large uptake for this event. It was advised that it would go ahead regardless but that if youngsters decided not to attend we would review whether or not to do this event again.
 6. District Night Hike: Paul Carl and David Fisher have been working on this event and proposed a route which would encompass various Group HQs. Unfortunately it was discovered that we shall be unable to use either 1st Apsley or 1st Leverstock Green

due to previous commitments for these facilities. It was advised that the intention was to address the requirements of the Cubs Badges chef and map reader on this hike. A request was made to try and avoid fulfilling the Map Reader badge as it was considered this would negatively impact on the County Cub Night Hike. This to be revisited to look at alternatives. Intention discussed was to work on a 2pm start to allow the hike to take part partially in daylight and partially at night. Intention being to finish for 0930 on Sunday 27th April. Scouts have volunteered to run bases for this event. Discussion took place around the length of the hike, feedback was that a route of approximately 8 miles would be preferred. An offer was made to make available the facilities at 1st Warners End, either as a base or as an overnight stopping point. **Action:** Paul Carl and David Fisher to rework route at an optimum 8 miles distance.

7. District Cub Camp: It was confirmed that this has been booked for Gilwell Park (Essex Chase area) July 4th~6th. An initial meeting of those organisers available has taken place and it was confirmed that the theme will be Commonwealth Games. Each Group attending will be allocated a country within the Commonwealth as their own theme for activities throughout the weekend. As previously discussed it was agreed that Leaders would arrive Friday pm with youngsters arriving Saturday at around 0900. Intention being that Leaders will get the opportunity to get to know each other whilst working together to set up the camp. District hosting a barbecue for those Leaders on the Friday evening was agreed. Tentative agenda for the weekend – Saturday am set up camps per Group, explore Gilwell, set up Country themed bases; Saturday pm Groups to run individual Country themed bases of their own making; Saturday evening Camp Fire, Groups to run a Country themed song, stunt, possible Country themed banquet was put forward as an idea; Sunday am a Flag parade of different countries/Scouts own followed by sporting activities. Intention noted as being that an initial letter for expressions of interest will be available by end of March, responses back by end of April which will allow time for Groups to have Countries assigned leaving them time to prepare prior to the camp. Cost will be a maximum of £20 including food. Food to be prepared by each Group to ensure their own needs and requirements are met. However should lesser experienced camping Groups wish to work with others Groups this will be encouraged. Discussion also took place around equipment and Nights Away permits with it being stressed that these can all be covered in the event that particular Groups may struggle. Questions arising: Should we run a completion for a camp badge? Can Groups attend only for the day on the Saturday? This was not encouraged but it was suggested that if this is a specific requirement this will be investigated as a possibility. Travel – It was agreed that parents would be responsible for dropping off/collecting youngsters.
8. County Cub Bushcraft Day : Saturday 22nd March. It was randomly drawn after the last meeting to decide which Groups would be allowed to take the places allocated to Hemel District. Results of draw were:
 - a. 3rd Boxmoor
 - b. 1st Apsley
 - c. 1st Kings Langley

Above Groups will be participating. It also became known at a later date that an additional 5 spaces had become available to the District. 1st Bennetts End being the next Group drawn were offered and have accepted an additional five spaces for this event.

9. County Cub Scout Expedition to Belgium: 1st/2nd August 2014. This is an activity which is being offered to a total of 6 Cubs and 1 Leader per District within the County. Travel will be by Eurostar, accommodation will be in a Scout Hostel in Antwerp and various exciting activities will be on offer in addition to an International experience. Cost £135. It was advised as being up to each District how to allocate the available spaces. Discussion took place around this being pairs from a Group/Groups working together to allocate a pair. Discussion then took place around a letter to Cub Leaders/GSLs to gauge possible interest for this trip. In addition to this specific expedition this would also provide a sense check as to potential interest for the District organising a similar trip in future. **Action:** Letter seeking expressions of interest to be available for Cub Leaders/GSLs week commencing March 10th. A question was raised as to whether potential assistance from the District International fund may be possible. **Action:** Richard Haynes to ask this question of District Executive.
10. District Family Camp: Intention is to hold this in conjunction with ASAP at Phasels weekend of 12 – 14th September 2014.
11. Possible events for 2015 were noted as being:
 - a. Sixer & Seconder Day
 - b. Cub Fun Day
 - c. Tudor Challenge
 - d. Conker Competition.

Dates for these and potential other events will be worked at next meeting.

D. Discussion points from previous meeting.

1. Nil

E. Information Sharing.

1. A question was asked by a relatively new Leader at a recent Training train if this meeting could be used as a method for sharing information on available local activities to lend a hand with programme planning. This request was made of all Leaders in the e mail reminder prior to this meeting. Suggestions brought to this meeting were:
 - i. Outreach centre for canal boat trips.
 - ii. The Animal Shed for animal activities – www.theanimalshed.co.uk
 - iii. Pets at Home
 - iv. Saffron Curry House for tasting activities and a good place to obtain a fair price for Cubs attending.
 - v. Chip shop hike

- vi. B&Q at Watford/Luton. Will run DIY badges for £5/child.
 - vii. ADC Beavers Nikki advised that Hobbycraft at Watford will run activity evenings for free – Watford@hobbycraft.co.uk
 - viii. Boxmoor Trust will organise activities for an advisedly small nominal charge of £20
 - ix. Hemel Library – Kerry Sayers (1st Apsley) has contacts.
 - x. Music contacts – Contact Mary Plunkett (2nd Hemel)
 - xi. St Johns Ambulance badge resources – www.teachthedifference.co.uk
 - xii. Kings Langley Fire Station – Contact Keith Gower (1st Gadebridge)
 - xiii. PCSO – e mail for contacts. Visits also available to Welwyn Police HQ.
2. Other sources of information/resource were discussed. Scouts.org was noted as worthwhile as well as other assorted online sources. Discussion also took place around the use of Online Scout Manager as a tool to manage programmes with it's ability manage badge stages, programmes and assorted other detail. Whilst acknowledging this as being the case Andy also pointed out that use of the new Scout database 'Compass' is now specifically referenced in POR and aspirations continue to exist that this system will also include an amount of the OSM functionality. Realistically it is not envisaged that this will be the case in early versions of Compass. Consensus from OSM users was that the relatively small fee associated with its use was worthwhile for the simplicity of managing large amounts of Group data. The question was asked if a dummy mock up/demonstration of OSM could be set up for Groups currently not using this system to gain sight of it. **Action:** Russ to determine if this is achievable.

F. District/County News/Future Meetings:

1. Training – Training Trains continue to run and are currently well subscribed. It was again noted that taking part in a 'train' should allow a Leader to progress to Wood Badge stage within a two year period with the simple commitment of one training day per term. It was again noted that verification of Modules does not take place during the 'train' although the offer continues to be there to have Training Advisors attend at the end of a 'train' to verify Modules from a person's previous training.
2. Training – It was advised that there is to be a specific training event for 'Using Young Leaders Effectively' on Tuesday 1st April. E mail from Sandra Harding sent previously refers but this is basically an opportunity to learn how we should be utilising Young Leaders in our Groups to ensure they are being properly utilised in such a way that we are growing our replacements for the future.
3. Quiz evening – April 5th at Hobbs Hill Wood School in aid of Lochearnhead 2014 and Jamboree 2015.
4. Next meetings:
 - Tuesday 20th May – Cub Section – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm
 - Thursday 24th – All Leaders. End of term Thank You and BBQ.
 - Thursday September 4th – All Leaders – Hobbs Hill Wood School – 8pm

Reminders to be sent on each occasion in the week preceding these meetings.

G. AOB:

1. Jamboree 2015. Further to the message from Russ it was noted that Hemel District have received an additional two spaces for youngsters at the Jamboree to be held in Japan in 2015. Joe Reed-Hook of 1st Bennetts End and Eloise Hepburn have been offered and accepted these places. This fantastic news was further enhanced by us also having an additional Leaders space within the Contingents. Chris Larkin is the fortunate person now getting this opportunity.
2. Census 2014. More good news in that Hemel District now has a membership of 1174, the highest figure ever! Not all of the news however is good in that the Cub Section has again seen a small drop in numbers for another successive year. On a positive side though, Beavers have increased by 17.8% so the feeder [pool for Cubs is strong.
3. County Commissioner – It was noted that Rikki Harrington's tenure as CC is coming to a close and that the search is currently underway to find a replacement for him. It was mentioned that a note from Rikki has been received congratulating all of the Hemel District on our current strong position.
4. District Funding per section was discussed briefly again. Basis the 2014 census figure the amount available for the Cub Section budget is £618. It was noted that this is an amount that we have to 'use or lose' but that use of this money should not be frivolous. Russ' position is that it should be used to supply something that has previously not been in place, that said it is up to the Leaders to use as they see fit. This needs to be a stand-alone item at the next meeting and Leaders are encouraged to come to that meeting with ideas as to how this money may sensibly be used. It does not all need to be spent on one activity. Indeed it may not even be used for an activity, it may be decided to use some to purchase resources for the Cub Section across the District. All ideas welcome.
Action: All Leaders for next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.