

Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

Minutes of the District Team / GSL Meeting held at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School on Tuesday 5th February 2013

Present:

Richard Haynes (Chair)	Simon Fancourt	Phil McLachlan
Geoff Angell	Suzanne Ford	Sheila Neep
John Allen	Andy Glass	Paul Rathbone
Clive Borgeat	Keith Gower	Mike Watson
Matt Cannon	Bruce Gregory	Pete West
Russ Dyble (from mid item 2)	Richard Hirons	

Apologies

Myra Foster-Edwards	John Larkin	Rae Wells
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Richard advised the meeting his role as Chair was not to be a stand-in DC but to co-ordinate communication throughout the District to ensure planned events take place. Stuart would continue to sign necessary paperwork, e.g. NANs, until the appointment of a new DC.

1. DC Update

A decision was awaited from the County Commissioner. Keith advised the timetable was moving along as best it could, a meeting of the County Appointments Committee will hopefully be held mid-February so it was possible that an appointment could be advised within 3-4 weeks. However, it was noted that the person appointed may not be able to start immediately as he/she may currently be in another role.

2. District Events and Issues

- **Swim Gala 16th February** – all arrangements in place, Keith was not aware of which groups would be taking part although two groups had advised they would not be present. There will be makeshift changing facilities, therefore all YP should be encouraged to arrive at the event with their swimwear under their clothes; also they will need to take all their belongings poolside during the event. **Keith**
- **Outing to Duxford 10th March** – all letters had been distributed, closing date 18th February. **Simon**
- **Aquasplash** – Richard was trying to contact Aquasplash to arrange a date; the event will hopefully take place in the next half term. **Richard Ha**
- **Bushcraft** – all arrangements for the activities were in place, and it was again proving popular with YP.
- **Chief Scout Awards Presentation 13th May** – Keith advised this event will be held in the Council Chamber with the Mayor for YP who had achieved Bronze, Silver, Diamond and Platinum awards in the last year; due to limited space, the event will be aimed at Scout age and older, accompanied by parents and leaders. The proposed format was explained and discussed. It was agreed there should be a Certificate of Attendance, to be presented individually. The possibility of including a short presentation by a Queen's Scout or World Jamboree participant was considered. Geoff and Richard Hirons agreed to assist Keith with arrangements. A note will be circulated to GSLs and Scout leaders with further details and asking for names of eligible YP to be invited. **Keith
Geoff
Richard Ha**

- **District AGM 21st May** – there will be no activity evening this year but otherwise the meeting will be in the same format as previous years. There was a discussion on the proposed format and likely support; it is hoped there will be a representative from each group in attendance. The selection of the Executive Committee will be an important part of the meeting and the election process will be run as last year. Paperwork will be distributed at the appropriate time. **Keith**
 - **Activity Budgets** – Richard highlighted the allocation of money in the District budget, available to event organisers, to assist getting events up and running. There was a discussion on the need for these funds; however as the budget is in place for this year, usage will be monitored and adjusted in future if necessary.
 - **County Cycle Event 7th July** – this will be a sponsored event to raise funds for the Capital Appeal and further information is awaited from County (*since the meeting Mike has advised further details and a registration website will be available online at the end of February*). It is planned to run a complimentary District event alongside County so GSLs were requested to put the date in their diary. **Richard Ha**
 - **Cooking & Campfire 10th July** – Richard outlined the proposal for the event; sections/groups will be asked to run cooking bases, District will arrange the campfire. This is another fund raising event for the Capital Appeal. **Richard Ha
Simon**
 - **St. George's Day 28th April** – Russ explained the proposed format of this event, which will comprise a short parade, the renewal of promises and 2-2½ hours of activities to include those previously run alongside the AGM; each group will be asked to run a base. There will be a few additional bases themed around the Scout Law, Promise left handshake, etc., and these will be differentiated for each section. There will be a small charge to cover minimal costs, anticipated at no more than £5/head (to include refreshments). Parents will be able to join in the parade with their child's group or walk alongside, see the Renewal of Promises, then either stay to take YP around the activities or go home. Information needs to go out at the beginning of March. Currently Russ and Doug Stack are co-ordinating; Richard Hirons/HHEX and Geoff Angell/Network need to be involved to help man activities if possible. **Russ
Richard Hi
Geoff**
 - **Sailing** – Phil advised the cost of the Brightlingsea week will be £230 and letters will be distributed soon. Weekly sailing at Bury Lake will start after Easter and information will be circulated at the end of March. **Phil**
- 1st Apsley now have rights to use the lake next to their hut and intend to form a Canoe section. Archery will also be set up at that location.
- **Holland** – Russ reported there are 115 participants, with most groups represented. Fundraising is going well. There will be a training day on 16th March, with a presentation about the programme at 2.00 pm to YP/parents, leaders can attend if interested. There will be a fundraising quiz night on the same date, information will be distributed within the next week. There will also be a training weekend in May. **Russ**
- ### 3. Beaver Section events and issues
- **Easter Egg Hunt 14th April** – details will be distributed shortly. **Andy**
 - **Sports Day 2nd June** – this will be held at Lockers Park school and all arrangement are in hand. **Andy**
 - **Beaver Section meeting** – to be arranged.

4. Cub Section events and issues

- **London Outing 14th April** – letters were passed to GSLs for distribution next week; electronic copies would be emailed next week. **Richard Ha**
- **Cub Section meeting 12th March** – a reminder would be sent out.

5. Scouts Section events and issues

- **Navigator Badge/Geocaching 10th February**- Russ outlined the new format, the event will be run out of DHQ with parent help. **Russ**
- **Kayak Expedition 6th April** – Russ gave details of plans to date. Information will be circulated within the next 10 days; there will be a few preliminary sessions to assess competency (cost £5). The expedition is expected to cost about £30 including transport and food. **Russ**
- **Mountain Biking 16th June** – following discussion it was agreed to contact Tony to ascertain if any arrangements have yet been made; if not then the event would be removed from the diary and combined with the County event in July. **Richard Ha**
- **Event budgets** – Richard requested event organisers to submit simple budgets of expected income/expenditure for monitoring purposes to ensure, in the absence of a DC, any questions about District operation could be covered.

6. Explorer Section events and issues

- **Chiltern Challenge 2nd/3rd March** – HHEX were entering two teams.
- **D of E** – the programme is going ahead as usual with expeditions planned to run Easter/June/August/September. There will now be a training weekend for the Silver level expedition to help YP cope with the step up from Bronze to more challenging terrain. There was a discussion about the presentation and celebration of awards within the District, and whether it would be appropriate to include these in either the St. George's Day or Mayor Presentation events. **Keith, Richard Hirons, Geoff** and **Richard Haynes** will look at the numbers achieved in the past year. **Richard**
- **New Unit** – running on Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30 pm at Phasels Wood, numbers are slowly building.
- **Young Leader Training** – Richard advised he is now running the programme, there will be a Module A in February. All resources had been obtained from Ruth Digby and the full programme will pick up in April. **Richard Hi**

7. Network Section events and issues

- **Chiltern Challenge** – Geoff advised it is still possible to enter scout training teams (4 YP/1 Leader) if any groups are interested.
- **Queen's Scout Award** – it should be noted that anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 undertaking this award be Network member; Geoff advised the N/W meeting night can be flexible to accommodate members who have other Scouting commitments. There was a discussion on the promotion of this Award in the District and County. Geoff will circulate to GSLs information about the Award requirements. **Geoff**

8. Active Support issues

- **General Activity** – Alan Oxtoby was standing down as Manager but will remain the contact until a replacement is identified. It was noted that, apart from Swim Gala, no requests for support had been received since August.

- **Water Activities** – gearing up for the Summer.
- **Scout Shop** – a new manager, Linda Jermy, has taken over from Russ, the Shop will continue to operate as usual. All teams are up to capacity. 2012 profit was £3.8k, higher than expected due to trade outside of the District. Most profit came from uniform sales, but only 40% of uniform is currently purchased from the District Shop. Flyers are given to all new parents and Groups should try to promote use of the Shop. It was noted badges can be ordered online and delivered using credit facility. It was suggested the the Shop be available at the St. George's Day event to promote sales.
- **Nights Away** – no issues.
- **Media** – two ladies help by taking photos at events, updating directory, etc. It was noted Jan Maddern is quite successful at getting articles into the HH Gazette.

9. Any Other Business

- **Leader Training** – the 2013 programme is on the County website. The First Aid training should be booked quickly if needed as there is a huge demand. District dates to note -

20th February – Personal Learning Plan meeting

23rd February – First Response – DHQ – book on County website

Following a discussion on a more streamlined approach to Leader training used in other Districts, whereby cohorts are formed and move through the training together, it was agreed that Steve should progress the adoption of this method within the District.

Steve

- **Census** – Mike reported returns have been received from 11 groups, 4 are still awaited. Mike will contact the outstanding 4 to set a two week deadline and to find out if support is needed. Keith, Richard and Mike would liaise in two weeks to check the status.

**Mike
Keith
Richard Ha**

- **Directory** – there will in future only be one issue per year, in May, with an update sheet to be circulated in November.
- **Recruitment** – Simon had circulated a District leaflet aimed at Beavers via all schools in district. Interest forms would be returned to Russ (20 received so far); leaders were requested to let Russ know if they had any Beaver section spaces to fill. There was a discussion on leader support for additional numbers; it was noted some groups are struggling to get adequate support and further consideration would be given to this at the next meeting.

- **County Meeting:**

- County want to ensure all Chief Scout Awards are being notified to them as numbers appear to be down. There was a discussion on system of notification.
- World Jamboree, Japan – Hertfordshire have secured two full units (4 patrols = 1 unit) and are bidding for an extra patrol. County are reviewing the YP selection process and the outcome is awaited; no plans will be made within the District until the process is notified.

- **Lochearnhead 2014** – There was a discussion on when and how to advertise this event to YP. Richard Hirons will produce a flyer with dates and approximate costs ready for distribution after Easter. The main drive to fill places will take place post Holland, however any group wanting to collect money in advance in order to allow participants to spread the cost over a longer period can do so.

Richard Hi

Next meeting – 23rd April 2013 if no DC in place.