1st Swindon Sea Scout AGM Report 2011 – 12

There have been many changes over the past 12 months, both with the scouts and within the leadership team. We lost Di as an assistant scout leader last year, however, we have gained two new members of the leadership team: James (ASL) and Rob (soon to be ASL).

We had 10 scouts leave:

* 4 have gone onto explorers
* 3 have gone onto do other activities
* 3 have moved away from the local area.

We have also gained 9 scouts:

* 5 from cubs.
* 4 new to scouting.

This gives us a solid number of 20 scouts on the books at this moment in time.

The scouts have been extremely busy over the year, starting with the Malvern Challenge. This is a weekend camp in the Malvern Hills for approximately 3000 scouts and guides. The aim is to complete an 8 mile incident hike which is always enjoyed by both scouts and leader. Although I think the disco, talent show, and fairground rides have something to do with it. We are all looking forward to going again next weekend.

It’s not just the scouts that enjoy themselves at the lakes; we also invite the cubs and beavers down for a fun day.

Unfortunately due to safety reasons not all the scouts get involved in this activity and only a select few are asked to come along to assist with helping the younger sections.

The triathlon was an activity where the scouts camped out over the weekend at Bowmoor lake and competed against each other in pairs in Kayaking, sailing and paddle board. This is also a chance for the scouts to rase some money to help with the up keep of the fleet. So this year please get family and friends to dig deep.

Once back at the Wick, the scouts started the winter program with making their own rules of behaviour and signed them. We also went back to basics and learned about some of the history of scouting.

The scouts also took part in St Wise. This gives the scouts a chance to travel all

over the Swindon area on the buses in teams of between 4 and 6, finding the answers to the long list of questions and items from their wish list while under the watchful eyes of leaders all dotted all over the area.

Trash trophy was the next activity on our list. This is an incident hike during the day. And they still managed to get lost!

Once again the scouts were asked to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade in the town centre. They did such a fantastic job, both with the flag and as Guard of Honor that one of the Air Cadet Officers commented on how professional they were. Well done!

Due to this we teamed up with four of the Air Cadet’s senior cadets. We invited them to come along and run an evening for the scouts. The scouts had a great time learning some basic drill, history of the Air Cadets and Royal Air Force, and not to mention getting messy with camouflage cream.

The run up to Christmas we were busy with Christmas Post, selling stamps and delivering cards. A big thank you to all that helped, we could not have done it without you.

To blow away the cobwebs after the Christmas break we got the scouts back out in the fresh are by doing hikes along Signal Way and Barbury Castle. This was also used as training for the Les Barns Night Hike. This year we entered 3 teams and one of our teams came 3” in the district. Well done to them and to all that took part.

This year we have been looking at the Challenge badges. The Global Challenge in particular. We decided to look at poverty and homelessness both in the UK and overseas. The scouts did some research and presented their findings of the topic and some of the charities that provide help in this area. To complete the badge the scouts have to raise money for one of the charities. We are hoping to do this in two parts this year. For those scouts who are going to Malvern Challenge we are looking for sponsorship for completing the incident hike over the Malvern Hills (the money raised will be split between the charity and the scout group). So everyone can take part in raising money and completing the Global Challenge badge, we would like to also use half of the money raised in the triathlon to go toward the charity also.

One of our Scouts has only the Global Challenge to complete before he becomes the very first 1” Swindon Sea Scout to gain their 'Chief Scout Gold Award’. This is the highest award any scout can achieve in the scout section.

We are all excited about this and really want both Michael and lots of other scout to follow in achieving this prestigious award.

I would like to end by thanking not only the scout leadership team for all their hard work, including the young leaders, the scouts for showing interest and keeping us on our toes.

I would also like to thank all the lady and gentlemen that have helped us on the water at the lake. We would not be able to have so many children on the water if we did not have your constant help. Last but not least, the tuck shop ladies (and gents) for keeping us supplied with warm food and drink after a night of fun on the lake.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!!!