

GSL REPORT 2013-14

Over the last year, I am happy to report that we had an excellent year for the Group with the numbers of young people increasing however, the number of adults, in direct roles, has fallen.

	2012/3	2013/4
Beaver, Cubs and Scouts	56	61
Leaders, Skills Instructors, etc.	16	20
Exec Members	9	8

I would like to thank the Leaders, the Executive Committee and all the other adults for their continued support and commitment. However, we still need to increase the number of parents involved in scouting particularly, in the areas highlighted below and would like to ask for volunteers (remember the existing Leaders, Exec members and helpers are volunteers).

The other area that needs to be considered is fund raising – although the Group has benefited from Grants and fundraising event over the past year. The age of the fleet and our wish to improve our Scout hall means that fundraising activities needs to increase.

As a whole the Group has participated in many activities from the Beavers visiting the circus to the Scouts taking part in the Malvern Challenge and for the first time this year ran a Regatta on behalf of the District which looks like becoming an annual event.

In 2014 we also had youngsters participate in the Gang Shown.

We also ran our most successful Les Barnes Hike on behalf of Swindon North and Swindon Ridgway Districts with 23 Scout and 9 ESU (this includes Guide teams) teams, The most entries we have ever have had although the wet weather cause us major problems.

However, it is with sadness that I have to report the Les who the activity is named after and one of the founding members of 1st Swindon passed away in 2013.

The Group is continuing with its plans to extend our facilities providing better storage, fleet repair facilities, craft facilities and areas where groups of youngsters can go for activities outwith our main hall – this will give us facilities to see us well into the 21st Century.

We currently have a waiting list for both Beavers and Cubs and I would like to start up a second Colony and a second Pack but to do this we need adults willing to come into uniform.

Over the past nine months we have moved to form closer links with Sea Explorers and to this end we now manage the Unit on behalf of the District.

Beaver Colony –The section is running at capacity with a waiting list and this may mean we consider re-opening a second colony in 2014. We have a new BSL, Alan who has taken over from Catharine and I would like to thank them for their continued support. Catharine has not escaped from the Group and now supports me as Assistant GSL and is working on a number of projects within the Group. We have an excellent and expanding leadership team and again my thanks goes to them.

We have a number of regular parent helpers and our thanks go to them however, we need more help on a regular basis. We have two Young Leader who's help is most appreciated.

Cub Pack – This section is running at full capacity with a waiting list and as I write this we are looking at the feasibility of re-opening a second Cub Pack. However, we will require more uniformed leaders before this can happen. The existing pack has two leaders together with a number of regular parent helpers but they will always accept more help from parents.

We also have three Young Leader who's help is most appreciated.

Scouts – The Scout section is also at full capacity even though some youngsters are moving onto Explorers. I have a large team of Leaders and skilled helpers and there development is key to the future of the section. Also we have a team of adults who help us during the sailing season and my thanks go to them. I would like to thank Ellen who has stood down from Scout Leader to Assistant Scout Leader and likewise James who has taken over as Scout Leader.

Exec – We have an excellent Executive team. We are in need parents to join the team in particular someone who can lead on raising funds from grant bodies. Remember it's the Exec, not leaders, that guide the Group not only today but also, into the future.

The Future – The Group has grown over the past year but we need adults to support the continued the growth so please help us to help your youngsters and continue **'to develop young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals and as responsible citizens, and members of their local, national and international communities'**. That's what we do.

Bryan McGaw

Group Scout Leader