

GSL REPORT 2014/15

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 particularly with the opening in January of our second cub pack.

The Group also have taken on management role of the Sea Explorers since April 2014 and we have seen an increase in numbers from three to nine. I hope also, after Easter to start a second Beaver colony that will increase the numbers again next year.

I would like to thank the Leaders, the Executive Committee and all the other adults for their continued support, hard work and commitment, a number of whom have more than one role – please see table below.

A area that continues to need to be considered is fund raising – although the Group has benefited from Grants and fundraising events over the past year. The age/size of our 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 taking part in Fun Days, Cubs taking part in the District Bowling competition, Scouts taking part in the last Malvern Challenge and Explorers gaining RYA Power Boat qualifications at Docklands (our thanks goes to 4th Thames Ditton for their fantastic support in this activity).

We again ran activities on behalf of the District:

For Cubs, the bowling and my thanks goes to Carl and his team for organising this event.

For Scouts and Explorers the Les Barnes Activity Hike and for the second year the Regatta here at Bowmoor Sailing Club and my thanks goes to the Scout and Explorer leaders for making these events possible.

Regarding activities, our cubs, had the pleasure of winning the Ridgeway Chess trophy with our scouts coming third equal.

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 to this end we have obtained planning permission and we hope to break ground shortly but as mentioned above, to complete the project major fundraising is required.

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. Alan and the team are continuing to develop programmes to keep the youngsters enthusiastic and engaged. We have an excellent and expanding leadership team and together with regular parent helpers my thanks goes to them for all their work and time given. Also, have a number Young Leader who's help is most appreciated.

We still have a waiting list but as you will have read above, we hope to start a new colony after Easter. (Note: the Group opened a second colony on Wednesday 10th June).

Cub Pack – We now have two packs, one is running at full capacity with the second quickly building up to full capacity. I would like to thank Carl and Alli and their teams for the excellent work they are doing in the two sections. A special mention must go to Donna who has been helping in both packs. However, we will require more adults to assist in the second pack. Again, we have a number of Young Leaders who's help is most appreciated.

With the start of the second pack we currently do not have a waiting list but I am sure that situation will not last long.

Scouts – The Scout section is also at full capacity even though some youngsters have moved onto Explorers. I have a large team of leaders and skilled helpers and there development is key to the future of the section and without them the water activities would not take place.

Explorers – The Group manages this section on behalf of District and we have seen a significant increase in numbers. The section is lead by Catharine who also undertakes the role of Assistant GSL and my thanks goes to her and the team of leaders and helpers who provide a wide range of activities.

In October one of our Explorers was selected for the RYA South West Youth Squad sailing a RS Fever and we wish him well in all his endeavours.

Exec – We have an excellent Executive team. However, our two treasurers and the chair have decided to step down at the AGM. This obviously gives the Group a major void and I hope that we will be able to fill the positions. We are also in need parents to join the team in other roles.

The Future – The Group has grown over the past year and I hope this continues with the opening of the second Beaver colony but, we need adults to support the continued 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!

We also need your support in developing our headquarters building now that we have planning permission – this will give us facilities that will provide a home for the Group that will enable further expansion and give us the facilities the young people deserve.

Bryan McGaw

Group Scout Leader

Beavers-Ontario: Alan Derek Gerry Bonnie Claire D Jacqueline Richard Damian Terry	Beavers – Michigan: Andi H Andy G Nick B Claire B	Cubs - Drake: Carl David Donna Vicky Lorna Cubs – Nelson: Alli Mandy Donna David	Scouts: James Gavin Mike Ruth Andy R Val Paul H Paul S Ben Rachael	Young Leaders: Peter Michael Tom Alex Nick W	Explorers: Catharine Ruth Mark Rob Val Paul H	Exec: Simon Sarah Denise Keith Steve Claire M Melanie Liz Rob	Buildings Manager: Rob Asst GSL: Catharine
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