

Scout Leader's Meeting Minutes  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
19.30

Present

Chris Drummond (1<sup>st</sup> Whickham, ADC Scouts)  
Peter Crawley (DC)  
Bruce Gormley (5<sup>th</sup> Tyne)  
James Heron (5<sup>th</sup> Birtley)  
Gregory Wake (1<sup>st</sup> Whickham)  
Andy Oliver (31<sup>st</sup> Gateshead)

### **Matters Arising**

The minutes were not presented as they had been left elsewhere.

Scout and Explorer Quiz held at the 39<sup>th</sup> HQ. It was a really good event, well timed and a good venue. The Explorers had four teams and they had a good go too. Won by 1<sup>st</sup> Whickham

Scout Dodgeball was held at 5<sup>th</sup> Birtley as 1<sup>st</sup> Whickham's HQ was unavailable. The 12<sup>th</sup> won. Only three groups presented teams. The 12<sup>th</sup> leader's ran the competition and did really well.

Camping Competition for the Scouts was really very good. 31<sup>st</sup> Gateshead Won. The standards of camping throughout were good with one minor exception. The Explorers event was not well handled and it was felt they were dumped on the Scout competition, with their survival competition left to the Scout leaders to run without guidance from the Explorers. The Explorers did not really get a competition as the Scout leaders did not know what to run and there was no Explorer leader present for most of the time and no instructions. There was a safety incident where one member was injured but the matter was dealt with. This did not adversely impact the Scout event but did give the leaders additional work. It has been said next year the Explorer event MUST be ran entirely separately from the Scout one.

Scout Camp at Moore House. There were some concerns over the finances but we appear to have made a profit, although the cost of the Explorer's camp will reduce this, possibly to nil. The camp was well liked and the activities chosen were apparently enjoyed by the members. The its a knockout competition was well thought of though the log run was a little quiet, possibly as the kids were tired by the time we came to it. Andy Oliver's camp fire competition was great, there were six stunts performed and they were all good. We could have saved some money by canceling one activity but it was alright. The marquee would have been useful had the weather been worse but thankfully it was not needed as the weather was generally good and it only rained during the night or when things were being packed up. Most people joined in well and there were no complaints, most of the activities involved water: the kids had a great time.

James Heron made the point that not all the leader's present necessarily did the same amount of work, i.e. running activities and games. Some groups had more leaders than others but appeared to do less work. More team work would be desirable. James also suggested next time we do more things together, i.e. perhaps central catering and/or dining to reduce the work load and share the cooking out. This could also reduce the amount of equipment needed on the site. We only had 38 kids and perhaps one kitchen would be easier to run than four or five. Andy Oliver said this would make it harder for the kids to cook for themselves. Chris Drummond suggested this would require a nominated catering crew for the camp, rather than various people getting in each other's way. This would need firm numbers and money in early which could create some organisational difficulties.

This was the first year in some time that we didn't run the event on a bank holiday and we delayed the leaving time till 16.00. Peter Crawley said he would prefer to run it on a bank holiday next time and it would have enabled us to end a little earlier but the late finish did cause some groups to begin taking tents and things down and putting kids in uniform before the log run and other activities were over. Having it on the bank holiday gives you full use of the Sunday and the Monday morning. This needs to be discussed next year. James Heron asked the meeting to present thanks to Dave Heron for all his hard work, especially cleaning the toilets. Criticism was leveled at Moor House and their failure to clean the toilets properly during the camp. Again there were some issues with the operation with the Explorer event, it's timing, organisation, finances and supervision.

The splitting of teams on the Sunday could be improved. This time we had teams where kids were not in the same team as any other member of their group. Perhaps next time it could be split by group or pairs from each group rather than single members. By the end of the competition these teams had gelled well so having teams mixed from different groups worked, whatever their initial reservations may be. Mixed teams also means no group can win the event.

5<sup>th</sup> Birtley, 21<sup>st</sup> Gateshead, 7<sup>th</sup> Gateshead, 31<sup>st</sup> Gateshead and 1<sup>st</sup> Whickham attended the camp.

The Moor House feedback form cannot be filled in here but any comments were taken. Chris and James Heron were going to fill forms in.

### **Upcoming Events**

Scout theme park trip. May have to be postponed from June. It's going to be about GBP30 each (GBP20 for entry and the remainder for the transport) so we're going to need to do it a little time in advance. Possibly 9<sup>th</sup> July (to replace Northern Lights) or September would be better and would allow people time to make arrangements. Firm pricing cannot be given until we have numbers and a bus booked. Each group must bring and pay for one or more leaders. James Heron will send out an email and require firm numbers. Confirmation and full payment must be made by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. The event will not be moved and will remain on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Sports Day. Falls on father's day again. It has been asked by the organisers can we take the tug of war out of the Wick Shield. This was agreed as the event is really a filler. This year's event has been rejigged, registration must be completed 30 minutes before the event starts, a Scout will be given a number and this will follow them through the event, this means kids do not need to be registered to particular events and can attend whatever event required (provided they meet the entry requirements), their number allowing them to be traced. It is hoped these changes will speed sports day up and stop the complications of registering names three weeks beforehand, such as heats running with only two or three kids. Some teething problems are expected. Leaders must have a list of Scout's names and ages to give to the event registrars. It is from this list that the registration numbers will be produced.

Dyvil's Hike. Chris has booked the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Dilston but has yet to receive full details from Ken. Scouts are expected to walk with day bags only as with last year. James Heron suggested teams of four to seven members are expected, teams of three are too small. The meeting were unsure, especially for terrain zero, the number restrictions may only apply to terrain one. Teams of four may be difficult for some groups to manage without having teams made up of more than one group. Four may be best practice but teams of three to four may be more realistic. The level of supervision and number of checkpoints make the route inherently low risk so teams of three is fine, though four would be preferred. If kids drop out during the competition we may need to be prepared to have teams swap members to keep the minimum number. The meeting accepted a minimum number of four per team and a maximum of seven. Ken Percy will be advised to build this into the

plan.

Scout Representative to the District Executive

Chris nominated James Heron as he is to be the new ADC Scouts from next week. James was accepted by the meeting.

Andy Oliver was asked about the Scout Hike on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. He is happy to organise it.

Any Other Business.

Paul Sergison. A five a side competition is being ran in memorial to raise money for Maire Curie, aimed at adults, Andy Oliver suggested we could submit a Scout Leader and/or Explorer Team. We do not know if this is to be a regular event or not. A GBP50 per team charge applies. It will run on the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> June at Gateshead Leisure Centre. This is the same weekend as cuboree.

Peter suggested adopting a trophy in Paul Sergison's memory. The best event without a named trophy is the Dyvil's Hike so it was suggested this could be renamed the Sergison Trophy to remember Paul's efforts. This could be announced at the AGM.

Next meeting to be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. There is no July meeting

Meeting ended 20.55.