

Scout Leader's Meeting Minutes

8th November 2011
Mitchell House 19.30

In attendance

James Heron ADC
Peter Crawley DC, 7th Gateshead.
Bruce Gormley 5th Tyne
Chris Drummond (32nd Gateshead/1st Whickham)
Greg Wake
Steve Johnson 5th Birtley

Apologies

Chris Oldfield 12th Gateshead
Steven Worth 33rd Gateshead
Andy Oliver 31st Gateshead

Matters Arising

The last meeting was in September.

- The Great North Run was good apart from the rain though Whitemare Pool was possibly undermanned. Heworth had a good turn out. The fence was more secure than last time and the police helped keep the undesirable elements away from the Scouts.
- The Scouting skills competition was won by the 7th, the venue at 5th Birtley's HQ was good, though there was no milk there for the tea! Competition only had three teams but despite that it was successful. Some leaders were apparently discouraged from coming when they did not have a team turn up, this meant that some people had to double up to run some bases. Next time it would be better if leaders turned up to run a base even if they did not have a team. We will use the Birtley HQ next year as it was very suitable.
- Confido. 5th Birtley, 21st, 7th and 39th Gateshead went. It was a good camp, much better than last year, especially with regard to food. It was well organised and worth attending. Then disco was accompanied by a concurrent film screening so there was a choice of things to do. There was a better distribution of work and there were some good, new activities.
- Scout Hike on 16th October. It was a nice little walk. Enjoyable and with a decent turn out, though possibly less than last year. Parking was expensive at £5.80 for a minibus and it was later found that free parking was available on an adjacent site. There was a stretch walking along a road that was slightly hairy. James Heron suggested we don't need to go so far afield, perhaps some of the walks around Whickham may be better as they are nearer. The area around Beamish was suggested too.
- Orienteering was last Saturday 5th November. There was a suggestion of Scouts sharing the answers between teams but within the same groups, so we may want to have manned checkpoints in future. Manning all check points would be problematic, as we may not have enough adults. Even just manning a few could be difficult as we'd need leaders to set off before and come back after the event. Cheating has not been a problem in the past. Time penalties and/or disqualification for being, say, 15 minutes over the time should be applied next year as some were up to 45 minutes late back. Bowlam Lake and Hamsterly Forest have been contacted to see what they can provide. Dilston was also suggested, we are unsure if they still have a course but it would not be too hard to set up a temporary one there and the site is small and contained. Leaving clippers at each point could help prevent cheating. As an alternative we could leave a sheet at each point and give each team a different coloured marker. Or we could move to a treasure hunt, where a town or such is used and scouts have to collect data from signs, sights or similar around the town instead of orienteering letters/symbols.

Next Events

- Swimming Gale 26th November, 17.30 meeting, all names to be submitted by 17.45 at Shipcoat baths, Gateshead. Chris suggested he was having problems downloading the swimming gala form.
- Carol Service 9th December. At Birtley as the vicar was very good.
- 2012 programme is to be decided. We are the last of the sections to set up their programme so will need to adjust around the others.

2012 Programme

- All dates are provisional and are subject to confirmation in the District Programme.
- 1st Aid Competition. Usually on a Wednesday, last year was on the 19th, this year could have been the 18th but this would clash with the Explorer's Young Leader's event. Earlier is a problem as some groups may not have started. 25th January is a fellowship event. The 1st available Wednesday is the 1st February. 1st February is selected.
- Frosty Camp. £45. 11th - 12th February. 24Hrs with overnight activities, offsite activities and an ice rink.
- Chess Competition. Last year clashed with an Explorer meeting in February. It is not the most popular event but is good for those kids not good at the more physical activities.
- Football 3rd March, Saturday was the intended date but this may clash with a Newcastle v. Sunderland match which could reduce turnout. 10th March was suggested but this could be late for the entries for the Durham County football competition. The 10th of March was decided.
- Quiz was 11th March 2011. To avoid the football Friday 2nd March is to be used.
- Dodgeball, was 30th March 2011. Wednesday 28th March was suggested but this leaves a lot of events in March. 28th accepted. 1st Whickham HQ to be booked.
- St George's Day. Friday 27th April. The 20th was considered but it is the first week back after the school holidays (start back 16th April.)
- Camping Competition. This was in April but April is quite crowded. May is suggested. 19th and 20th May decided. Possibly Birtley or elsewhere, no venue as yet decided.
- Jubilee will be around June Saturday 2nd/ Sunday 3rd.
- Scout Camp. Friday 4th May to Sunday 6th May, people can stay until the Monday if they wish as it is a bank holiday but official event end will be Sunday pm. No venue decided. Broomley Grange will be asked if they have hot water/toilets yet. Moor House is also a possible. Neither is very cheap. We cannot go very far as it is a Friday night departure after work and the bank holiday may make long distance travel involved. Kielder was suggested by the midie problem makes this difficult. This can be decided after Christmas. Great Tower has become a National Site but it is a one hundred and fifty minute drive.
- Theme Park. This was to be June 16th but this clashes with the cub camp. 9th June (Blaydon Races Day) is decided.
- Dyvels Hike. 30th June to 1st July. It was asked if this had to be in the Hexham/Corbridge area. James Heron suggested we move to somewhere like Gibside. If kept in the same area it does not have to be Dilston, it could be the racecourse or Whittonstall or Broomley Grange. Other sites or locales may be used and have been in the past. The location is largely dependant on the person organising the event.
- Sports Day. June was intended but Sunday 8th July is likely. TBC.
- Great North Run Sunday 16th September.
- Scouting Skills. This, being so close to the end of the school holidays is to be moved later in the year. 22nd September, in the morning, before the Explorer Survival Weekend at Birtley.
- Scout Hike. Done in September as it does not need a great deal of preparation. Saturday 6th October decided.

- Confido 12th to 14th October. Moor House
- Orienteering. 3rd November. At Gibside. National Trust Membership is valid until 4th November.
- Chess. Tuesday 13th November, same as the Scout Leader's Meeting. Gateshead.
- Scout Leader's Meeting. January, March, May, September, November. 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Trophy engraving was discussed. The group will normally get the trophy engraved and the district will pay. A receipt is required. Some have quite large gaps. The next group that wins should update them where possible.

Next Meeting

8th January 2012. 19.30. Mitchell House.

Meeting ended. 21.05