



WIMBLEDON and WANDLE  
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

*for the year*

MAY 2014-2015



**Annual General Meeting**  
**of the**  
**Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council**

8pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015  
19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Headquarters

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's welcome and introductions
3. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014
4. Report of the District Executive Committee.
5. Approval of the Accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2014.
6. District Commissioner.
7. To approve the District Commissioner's nomination for District Chairman and nominated members of the District Executive Committee.
8. To resolve that the District Scout Council elects 5 members to serve on the District Executive
9. Election of officers:           District Secretary  
  District Treasurer  
  District Executive Committee x 5
9. To elect a representative to the County Executive.
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
11. County Commissioner
12. Presentations.
13. Any other business

Preceded (from 7.45pm) and followed by refreshments and light buffet.

**Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday 7th May 2014**  
**At 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, Morden**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the District President, Jack Atkins, in which he asked those present to remember those in Scouting in the District who have passed away in the last 12 months– Jeff Young, Tom Dimmock, John Gales and Bryan Wagner.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jackie Lyon, James Hannam, Lee Churchill, Jo Lynch, Richard Bowyer, Deborah Carter, Mark Roberts, and Richard Thorpe.

**2. Welcome and Introduction**

Andrew Edmonds, District Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Ian Newbury, the County Commissioner and introduced the “top table”.

**3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held 8th May 2013**

Proposer – David Bixby

Secunder – Michele McNamara

**4. Report of the District Executive Committee**

Chairman’s report accepted as circulated. He reported the 3rd year was the end of “the forming stage” and we were now at the “storming stage”. He thanked the Committee for their efforts. He reported the support given to the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon £50K grant towards the rebuilding of their new HQ. This money came from the Atlasta Hall Fund. He wished the 19<sup>th</sup> well in their rebuilding. The plan from County AGM concerns radical plans/decisions affecting the 14-18 year olds.

He concluded by extending thanks to Joe on behalf of everyone in our District and thanks to all attending this AGM

Proposer Paul Atkins

Secunder – Tim Kerridge

All agreed

**5. Approval of the Accounts for the period ending 31st December 2013**

Keith reported that Jackie was disappointed at not being able to be present and that he would present the accounts. As last year Keith presented two forms of account: A “Summary of District Account” for the year ended 31st December 2013 (single sheet) and The Annual report and accounts for 2013 (several pages).

Keith thanked Brian Whalebone and Lesley Bixby for their support for our District Store and Badge sales, and stressed that Jackie has done a tremendous job as our Treasurer over this past year.

At this point Keith asked if anyone had any questions – Dave Christmas queried the amount we receive from Kenneth Black Hall.

It was explained that we have a long term lease on KBH and that rental is reviewed every so many years. The rental from the flat will also be reviewed and increased as per rental agreement.

Keith ended his Report by thanking Jackie for all of her work as Treasurer over the past year and also to Ted Aslett for his work as our Independent Examiner. Keith was also thanked for his work with our accounts over the years.

Adoption of the Annual Accounts – Proposer – Peter Hutton

Secunder – Dave Christmas.

All present agreed.

## **6. District Commissioner**

In addition to his circulated report Joe added the following:-

He expressed his thanks to those present. He reported that our people had done extensive work throughout our District.

Work done in our District HQ had been done for many years by Cliff and his gang and now Alan and his gang have taken over. This is an example of the extra time and effort people in our District put in.

Joe mentioned the programmes we have – we have a mix of training days, fun days etc. and we will build on this. Only this past week we have had a successful Bushcraft activity and of course Peter's famous Sports' Day and Michele's Swimming Gala. We also have a successful training team with 30 Wood Badges presented last year. Joan Burgess is no longer our Appointments' Secretary. She did this for many years and she was thanked for her service at the SAS AGM. Paul Henderson was thanked for his many years in the Explorer Section in our District.

Although our Census figures for this past year show a fall of 2.5% (interim census figure up) over the past 4 years our District numbers have grown. For instance we did have 5 members in the Network – the number now is 39. We are attracting many adults and friends who help out. The aim of the Scout Association is to have 500,000

Members. In Morden we have struggled to increase numbers but in Wimbledon some Groups have a waiting list.

Joe concluded by asking "do we value our adults?" - 80% of awards go to adults in the front line. Do our Scouts feel proud of being scouts? – turnout seems to point to that.

In 1944 our District President had his first Warrant – Joe extended his appreciation to Jack for his continued support.

## **7 To receive the District Commissioner's nomination for District Chairman and**

### **Nominated members of the District Executive**

Andy Edmonds to continue as our District Chairman.

Joe Rogerson (DC) and Neil McLauchlan

Nominated members: Keith Angliss, Peter Newman, Joan Burgess, Brian Whalebone.

All present agreed.

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION:**

- a) To resolve that the District Scout Council elects 5 members to serve on the District Executive.

Proposer for the above - Neil McLauchlan  
Seconder – Peter Treagust  
All agreed

### **8 Election of Officers**

District Secretary Muriel Treagust  
District Treasurer Jackie Lyon  
District Exec. Members Alan Green, Peter Treagust, Robert Brumwell, Richard Marus, Jim Anning.

The above were Proposed by Dave Gould  
Seconded by Dave Christmas  
All agreed

### **9 To elect a representative to the County Executive**

Thanks were extended to Jim Anning who had been our Representative for the past year but who was now standing down.  
No Nominations/volunteer for this coming year but Andy did have someone in mind but he was not present at this meeting but would be approached at a later date.

### **10 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

For the past few years Ted Aslett has given his services (unpaid) voluntarily. He has agreed to and it was proposed he be appointed our Independent Examiner for the coming year.

Proposed by Richard Mainwaring  
Seconded by Liz Laverick  
All agreed

### **11 County Commissioner**

He extended his thanks to everyone present for their efforts over the past year. He also extended thanks to Joe who gave his time generously. He made mention of Vision 14-18 and said that the last Vision launched by County was successful and he looked forward to this latest one being successful. A lot of parents appreciate what we do. They are looking to have 100 new volunteers this year and this could be achieved by September. He stressed that we must all get in together to grow Scouting.

### **12 Presentation of Awards**

In appreciation of his work with Explorers Neil McLauchlan presented Paul Henderson with a gift as a thank you.

The following were presented by Ian Newbury:  
Certificate of Scouting to John Tweedley

Wood Badge – Alan Green

Long Service Award – Veronica Kerridge

30 Years' Service Richard Mainwaring

Chief Scout's Commendation – Diane Mundy

Peter Wraight

Sharon Wraight

Veronica Kerridge

In 1970 Margaret Pooley invested our Chairman and she was invited to present Andy Edmonds with the Silver Acorn.

Ian Newbury presented the following:

Bar to the Silver Acorn – Neil McLauchlan

Bar to the Silver Acorn – Lesley Bixby

Ian requested and reminded those present for nominations for awards to be forwarded to HQ.

### **13 Any Other Business**

Paul Wilkins, GSL 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon wished to thank the District Executive and HQ for agreeing to the loan which enabled the Group to go ahead and rebuild their HQ.

Brian Whalebone requested that all Groups submit their bank account details to either himself or Bernie Pike which would enable transfer of money easier.

Alan Green reminded the meeting that new keys for District HQ would be available from 8<sup>th</sup> May for distribution on demand.

There being no further business Andy closed the meeting by thanking everyone for

attending and also thanked the SAS for providing the refreshments, and to Andrew Hayward, 1st Lower Morden

A vote of thanks to Joe and Andy for the work they do for our District was given.

A light buffet and refreshments concluded the meeting.

## **Chairman's Report May 2014 – April 2015: Andy Edmonds**

Let me start my Report (at the risk of offending anyone I don't name); by saying "thank you" to all who served on the District Executive Committee:

Our financial team: Jackie Lyon in her second year as Treasurer, Keith Angliss and Ted Aslett, our examiner. Keith and Ted have delivered the Accounts and examined them in time for this year's AGM. We were sorry to lose Jackie's services in December, when family pressures meant she had to step away from her responsibilities and wish her and her family well for the future. Yet again, Keith Angliss has stepped in and despite a house move out of the Borough, has acted as Treasurer and completed the Accounts in a more than timely manner. At the time of writing and having exhausted numerous avenues, we are no nearer finding a replacement Treasurer. As Keith has been saying to me for the last five years; he "isn't getting any younger"!

Thanks also to Bernie Pike who has been keeping the books for the District Store and has decided to stand down. Bernie has served Scouting in Merton in a number of roles for many decades. We thank him and wish Bernie and his family well for the future!

To our Secretary Muriel Treagust for her hard work in trying to make sense of my ramblings at Exec meetings and then writing up the Minutes. Also for the monumental task of completing the Annual Census; that was made even more of a challenge by "Compass" issues!

It was pleasing and an example of how so many people can work together, that despite all the issues, our Accounts were produced in a timely manner, Census completed and Capitation paid to County. So thank you to everyone that played their part in bringing this all about!

To Peter Newman and Muriel Treagust who have run the Appointments Sub Committee with skill and efficiency. Particular thanks to Muriel who "held the fort" whilst Peter was under-going hospital treatment and all at a time when "Compass" continues to misbehave! We are all delighted that Peter has now been able to resume his duties.

To Alan Green and his team for their work at Morden Hall DHQ, to Brian Whalebone as Store Manager and Quartermaster, to Lesley Bixby as Badge Secretary, Awards Co-ordinator and "Links" Editor; and to Paul Atkins for making our web site the font of information it has become and more recently his invaluable help and guidance with "Compass"!

To Rob Brumwell and Peter Treagust for overseeing our main source of income; being the Hall, Flat and garages at Kenneth Black Hall.

To Richard Marus who came forward before the AGM last year and has served as our Representative on the County Executive and taken over as St George's Day organiser.

To the SAS who help out at District events and for the catering at our AGM.

To Dave Christmas for his help with risk assessments and David Williams for legal advice.

A final big “thank you” on behalf of us all to Joe; our District Commissioner, who gives greatly of his time and from my viewpoint: fantastic drive and inspiration!

Throughout the year, I have tried to keep everyone abreast of developments through my Reports in “Links” and our over-riding priority remains supporting the District via the District Development Plan.

This concludes my 5th year as Chairman and nothing will have been achieved without the Team around me. The Executive has continued in the “Norming” Phase and with the new District Development Plan is expecting to move to the “Forming” stage.

Whilst finances remain as they are, the Executive remains committed to negate all direct costs to our Members. This has resulted in the District Levy being abolished; 100% of all profits from the Store being returned to Groups and no charges for the use of Morden Hall DHQ and Patches.

The District Plan is financed this year (2015) to the extent of £30000 and £27500 for future years. We hope that by the change in emphasis to funding via ADC's and DDC (14 plus), our resulting better trained adults; providing a wide range of exciting opportunities for young people to take part in, will facilitate the increase in membership numbers we all strive for.

Alan Green and his small team of helpers continue to make Morden Hall District Headquarters into a safer and more user friendly resource. The transformation over the last three years and resultant increase in use by the wider District (for more than adult meetings), is and will continue to be a lasting testament.

Kenneth Black Hall is the key to all these Plans; in that rental income from the site currently totals £30400 per annum. The initial Lease for the flat expires at the end of 2015 and we will be seeking to ensure future arrangements are at market rental. The Bridge Club has made unexpected enquires about undertaking work to the property, in return for an extended Lease (the current 20 year Lease expires in 2026 and has 5 yearly reviews linked to the Retail Prices Index). Informal discussions have been held and will be conducted in a way to ensure that the District is not out of pocket and any new Agreement is commercially justifiable; reflecting societal changes and their effect on the property market in the SW19 postcode area. We will also consider potential income generating possibilities from the garages or demolishing them and resultant increased income from a reduced number of larger garages.

All of this will result in the need for architects, surveyors, builders and the establishment of a KBH Development Sub Committee that could secure the



District's finances for decades to come. So if anyone has some friendly contacts with expertise they could lend, please do let me know!

We have supported Groups in bringing their HQ's up to modern standards via the "Atlasta Loan" Scheme. The 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham has been supported to the extent of £12000 (repaid £1000), 8<sup>th</sup> Morden £10000 and 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon £50000. These moneys have allowed Groups to bring forward modernisation plans; that have become self-financing by making HQs more attractive for outside rentals.

Announcements have now filtered out from Scout Headquarters about the availability of formal training for Executive Members. This will be at District level and I have volunteered to act as co-ordinator during the roll-out period and am liaising with County in this respect.

The District is blessed with a financial "oasis" and as a "management team", our priority and drive is to ensure that these funds are allocated in a way that best provides for the needs of (and develops) young people in LB Merton. That is only possible by the support of unpaid volunteer adults who wear a uniform and others that don't. Your contribution is hereby saluted and each and every one is thanked for your hard work and long may it continue!

## **District Commissioner's Report May 2014 – April 2015: Joe Rogerson**

The unmitigated disaster that has been the introduction of the Compass database has overshadowed all things Scouting over the winter period and, doubtless, it is going to take some considerable time for this situation to be righted. Hopefully, the interim procedures that we have put in place in the District will let “life to go on”, allowing us to continue to recruit, train and retain adults.

The Census has just been completed thanks to the efforts of all concerned, not least Muriel Treagust who has done a sterling job in bringing it all together. The initial figures show a 4.5% fall in membership over 2014, which was completely unexpected. At the time of writing, no analysis of the figures has been undertaken. This analysis will be required and comparisons with the previous few years will need to be undertaken to permit us to make the necessary decisions based on the trends that these figures show. As mentioned in previous years, statistics must be looked at carefully in order that a true picture may be gleaned.

The last year has seen us continue to provide successful scouting skills training to both leaders and scouts together with mandatory safety training of adults. These, together with a well delivered woodbadge training scheme and a variety of programme support activities have been of great benefit to our scouts. I should like to record my grateful thanks to the many adults, far too numerous to mention, who have both provided and attended this training/these activities as this commitment is what makes us the vibrant District that we are.

In terms of infrastructure, the work of the Executive continues to be immense, particularly in the areas of finance and asset management. The members' hard work in putting the District on a solid financial footing means that we are now in the enviable position of being able to divert more of our money to help improve scouting at the grassroots. This is reflected in our new District Development Plan, which has allocated significant sums of money to fund both programme support activities and the skills training of adults.

That we still have challenges to face, be it at Section, Group or District level, is self-evident, as we operate in a challenging world. What we can be sure of, however, is that we are making great strides in equipping ourselves to meet those challenges because we are blessed with so many adults across the District who are prepared to give freely of their time for the benefit of our youth members.

## **ADC Beavers Report May 2014 - April 2015: John Tweedley**

Well it does not seem that a year has passed since I wrote my first Beaver report.

The year started with some Colonies attending the District Sports day. I did make some changes to the layout and where the Colonies ran their events. We addressed the complaints from Beaver parents the previous year about them being unable to see the Beavers compete as they were too far away from the action, and I think the feedback was more positive. We were to run a Beaver Activity day in November but this had to be cancelled. In January the Beaver Leaders had a meal instead of a meeting at the Hogsmill, Thank you to Jane Ginty for organizing it. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March we held our annual Bike and Scooter ride in DHQ/Morden Hall Park. It was hoped that the Met. Police would come down and give a talk on Cycle safety and for the Beavers and adults bikes to be security marked but unfortunately it seems the police do not work on Sunday's!! Therefore it was decided to do the Cyclist activity badge instead and present the badges at the end of the afternoon. My thanks to Dave Christmas and Peter Burley who between them worked with the Beavers on the badge requirements and also my thanks to Tracy Sterlini and Julia Doolan for bringing down and running the games. My thanks also to Linda Vaudrey and some of her colleagues from the SAS for booking in the riders and making the much needed refreshments. The event raised £143.55 which after badge expenses the remainder will go The National Trust. Apart from Sports day 13<sup>th</sup> June our next big event is the trip to Gilwell Park for the Cub and Beaver Fun Day 20<sup>th</sup> June. It is a shame that more Colonies have not taken up this opportunity to go to Gilwell as it is the Beavers that are missing out on this fantastic day out.

I have managed to visit all but 4 Colonies in the District and have enjoyed myself at the various meetings except at the 8<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon where it cost me £8 to park and a 10 minute walk although it was worth it when I finally arrived!

As I mentioned last year it would be great to see more Colonies represented at our meetings. I understand it might be difficult to attend them all but you can send a representative from your group if you can't come yourself. Looking back through many years of minutes there are some Colonies who have never attended a meeting, go on give it a try we are quite friendly and don't bite!!

So let's start again after the AGM and please try to get to at least 1 or 2 meetings as your ideas may help us give the District Beavers some new and exciting challenges especially with the new badge requirements.

Finally my thanks go out to Tracy Sterlini, Julia Doolan and Clare Tweedley my DBSL's for their support over the past year and special thanks to Linda Vaudrey, my scribe at our meetings for all her help although I am a bit worried as she informs me that she has seen off 6 other ADC Beaver Leaders! Also I would like to thank all Beaver Leaders, assistants, helpers, young leaders and parents who without their help Colonies would not run and the young people would not be a part of this great movement.

It would be nice to see more representatives from Beaver colonies at our district meetings, this is the time to have your say and input into what the Beavers do, and you might pick up some ideas as well.

My thanks go out to Tracy Sterlini, Julia Doolan and Clare Tweedley who have agreed to be my DBSLs and my special thanks to Linda Vaudrey who has agreed to carry on as scribe to our meetings, (although she writes in shorthand and I have no idea what she is putting down!).

Lastly I would like to thank all Beaver Leaders, assistants, helpers and parents as without their help colonies would not run.

### **ADC Cubs Report May 2014 – April 2015: Michèle McNamara**

Thanks to the district and the leaders within the district, the cubs in the district have been offered the chance to take part in or attend various activities and competitions, throughout the year in addition to all the things they do with their own pack. It is shame that some packs don't seem to take advantage of this and that their cubs miss out.

We had to cancel our normal adventure day outing to Frylands last year as we just couldn't find a date that we could all manage, however this year's event is booked.

In May we had the 7 aside football competition, at Raynes Park High School and once again despite their assurances that it wouldn't happen we had to grapple with the fact that "Little Kickers" were once again using the pitches we had booked. This was eventually resolved but meant we had a late start. It was a very pleasant day and 10 Teams entered, which was a disappointing number with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden pack finally coming out on top as winners and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon as runners up.

November was once again time for the handicraft competition, the theme this year being anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> world war. This was an even more disappointingly supported event than the football although there were very good reasons why a few stalwarts of this competition couldn't be there this time. The winners were the team representing the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon (Burlington) Pack with the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon once again as runners up. Thanks to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon for the use of their facilities.

In January the cub leaders had a celebratory meal at Ganleys in Morden, we always try to find a venue that will accommodate a good number but only about 6 packs were represented and sometimes I wonder why we try so hard to do this, when we get this kind of response.

However the badge day in January, this year the scientist badge, exceeded all our previous numbers, with a total of ... cubs coming through the doors on a fairly chilly day to earn their badge. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ was full to capacity and thanks to them for their hospitality. All the leaders present once again excelled in presenting interesting and entertaining bases, thanks to them the event was a great success and a good time was had by all.

Shortly after this we held the district round of the county quiz, which isn't a very popular event within our district, even though the rest of the county support it. We had representatives from only 4 packs. Thanks goes to the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden for hosting this event, however we could have done without the local power cuts, which saw the cubs answering some of the questions by torchlight! The winners and runners up of this event were the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon, who went on to represent the district in the county round and I am very pleased to be able to record that for the second year running they won the county title!

Finally in March we held the chess competition, which is the quietest event we have, the winners this year were the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon. Out thanks to Mark Steed for once again organising this and the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon for letting us use their new building to hold the event in. The day before a number of packs had attended a scooter rally run by Kingston district, they all seemed to have enjoyed it and we are contemplating trying to run a similar event.

As I write this we are planning our next event at Frylands Wood and a good number of cubs seem to be attending but once again representing only a few packs. A recurring theme of my report is the lack of response from some packs in the district. If we aren't producing event/competitions which these packs would be interested in it would be nice to know but on the whole these non-attendees at events also don't turn up to CSL meetings, which means we never get any feedback or input from them, perhaps they could resolve this year to try to attend at least one meeting!

My thanks as always goes to all the Cub Scout leaders and their assistants for helping at events, without them they wouldn't be possible. We also have support from some members of other sections and this is invaluable and we thank them for this. I particularly want to thank Graham Fairclough, Martin Neal & Mia Patterson, the district cub scout leaders for their continued support and help particularly in the past year, when I was having to deal with so many health problems. I have now because of these resigned as a training adviser, CSL & SIC of the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden and hope in the coming year to be more effective within the district now I don't have quite so many jobs to do.

### **ADC Scouts Report May 2014 – April 2015: Dave Bixby**

At this year's census, the Scout numbers were down quite a bit. I believe this also applies to a couple of other Districts in greater London South West. This could be down to various things – people have quoted difficulties with compass and/or the late switch to the previous system – but basically we have a Scout Section of two halves, to quote a well known football pundit.

Some of our Troops are doing well, with good numbers and active programmes but others are obviously struggling.

The Scout Section team has had conversations with all these facing challenges and it is clear that the problem generally stems from weak or non-existent programmes which in itself can be the result of lack of adults or experience.

We can help with planning, suggestions for recruitment and short term support at Troop meetings but we can't take on running sections long-term.

Unfortunately, hardly any of our offers of help have been taken up. We are considering organising a couple of programme workshops to see if that would help but people would need to step up for them if they are going to work.

Following on from our Backwoods camp last May, we recently ran a Scouting Skills day to boost skills that Scouts could take back to their Troops. We have some extremely experienced Leaders in our District who are bang up to date with such things and I would urge all adults to engage with them. Not surprisingly, the struggling Troops neither sent Scouts to the day nor came along themselves to see what it was all about.

With the changes to the badge scheme, this would be a good time to take stock, ask for some help to review your Troop's position so that you can move forward and gain more satisfaction from what you are doing.

The joint Scout/Explorer paintball day was very successful with over 160 participants. I had not been before but was very impressed with the safety procedures and crowd control of the Campaign organisation. I have had numerous requests to repeat the event – a definite for next year's calendar.

Recently we received an offer from Teen Marine UK. They have an 8m, military grade rigid inflatable boat (RIB) fitted with a 225hp outboard engine, based at Hamble, near Southampton. They will either take your members out on the Solent/Southampton Water or train leaders up to the RYA Powerboat Certificate (Coastal) so they can take their own members. Currently the facility is only available to Police Cadets across the UK and our Scout District. Use it or lose it!

We try to provide a mix of activities to supplement Troop own programmes from 5 a side football, an incident hike to a quiz. We also try to put on a slightly off beat activity each year which in the past has included karting, indoor skydiving and paintball but we are always asking for input as to what Troops would like us to look at, so please let me have any suggestions.

We have been providing good support for County events out of all proportion to our size.

Wimbledon and Wandle took the cooking competition by storm, with the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden taking first place, 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon second and the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon third.

Several Troops enjoyed a brilliant weekend at Splashdown, a County event held at Thames Young Mariners with a subsequent scramble for places at this year's event.

We had slightly less entries for the County Night Exercise but I think some of our usual entrants were suffering from date clash and the wide choice of activities on offer. Troops just can't support every event.

My sincerest thanks go to all those who have put in the extra effort to help on District events, be it acting as a referee at the football, instructing during the skills day, manning a check point on the incident hike or blowing up space hoppers at the backwoods camp. We wouldn't have a football competition if it were not for Gary Baker, Duncan Hold, Jason and Helen Thain and Chris Brown of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mitcham; David Williams is our resident quiz master.

Alan Green, Richard Frewin and Tim Kerridge do all sorts of things that most people will not even be aware of, including direct support to Troops as well as major jobs on events and presenting Jack Petchey certificates. Thank you one and all.

Finally, last but by no means least, Lesley, without whom our District Scout Section would just not operate. Everyone should be aware of the infamous Red Book which takes a tremendous amount of work to produce including letters

and application forms (which a couple of Troops are still refusing to use), plus minutes of meetings, catering for leaders on skills days and weekends etc. The list is endless. Thank you so much.

### **DESC Report May 2014 – April 2015: Neil McLauchlan**

The improved Explorer section's District calendar of events has enhanced the unit's programmes for another year. We started the year with the Award Hikes. We had four units taking part in this opportunity. We ran hikes for both the Chief Scouts Awards & Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in the North Downs, South Downs and in the New Forest. All the teams had a fun time and we are expanding our number of qualified DofE Assessors to help in future years.

Having attended the St George's Day Parade and had some units entering the District Sports our next event was Gilwell 24: We had several units at this annual event run by headquarters. Always fun!

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> District Competition Night Hike in September. 5 Units took part. St Saviours came away with the fastest teams, followed by Raynes Park. Very well done to all who took part and all who supported the event. Hopefully this event will grow year on year.

The annual Mountain Weekend was held at Bethesda in North Wales as in previous years. Organised by Jo Lynch, 4 Units took part in hillwalking and climbing. Together with a party on the Saturday evening a great weekend was had by all. This was shortly followed by the Remembrance Day Parades. This was another very well attended event with the majority of our section on parade in either Wimbledon or Mitcham.

At the start of 2015 we joined the Scout section for a Paintball activity day. This was a first for the Explorer section as a District event. The whole day was very well organised by Dave Bixby. I have already been asked for this to be put it on next year's calendar.

The last event attended was the County run Red Flare Night Hike. This is another firm favourite on our calendar. We had several teams entering this year. All did very well at the distance and various activity bases. The St Saviour's Unit did particularly well and came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

I was very pleased to be able to join with Joe in launching the Empire ESU in the autumn term last year. Rory and Thomas are running the unit with help and support from Lee and all at the 8<sup>th</sup> Morden. This good news was sadly followed by the closure of the Mitcham ESU at the end of 2014. Joe had started the unit in the spring of 2004 and he, followed by several other leaders, ran a very successful unit for over 10 years. It would be nice to think that we can re-open it some day!

Looking at the Units individual programmes; Summer Expeditions were held to various UK locations including the Gower and Dorset. Activities included

surfing, pony trekking, hiking, trips to the beach, overnight challenge, survival training and wide games

Weekend activities included the Sharks camping at Thriftwood in January to take part in the Pedal Car Olympics. The Flying Penguins also competed in the British Pedal car championships entering all 8 rounds which take part all over England (Yorkshire to Berkshire and in between). They finished 7th in the country and 2nd in our age group, not bad for their first full season with their own car. The Wimbledon Edge Hill Unit helped in the running of Operation Thunderbolt, a Group Camp with the 9<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Group. We had Explorer Scouts at Gilwell 24 again this year. The Raynes Park Unit held a Spring Trip to South Wales which included camping, mountaineering, shelter building, bridge building. They also had a Day Hike to Watlington to practice route finding in unfamiliar country. The Flying Penguins raised money for their pedal car by doing a sponsored swim of the equivalent of the English Channel! They also went parascending, to the District water camp at Thames Young Mariners and also to the February Freezer camp at Paccar and had a go driving hovercrafts amongst other things. Every unit has run their own weekend camps and joined with various Group activities.

The Units Meeting evenings were their usual mix of serious and fun. As well as hike skills, map work, climbing at White Spider, a Talk from guide dog owner and a visit from one of the Olympic fencing coaches, some of the other fun highlights included; speed dating, dance evening, Giant board games (human hungry hippos and human table football), no-baking required baking night, paint-the-wall, Where's Wally treasure hunt around Wimbledon and a summer onesie party

We have several members gaining their Chief Scouts Platinum and Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards over the past year. Many are working towards their Chief Scouts Diamond and Duke of Edinburgh Silver awards. We do also hope to have a number of Queen Scout Awards to be completed this year.

Looking forward to the next year the Raynes Park Unit are preparing for their Winter Expedition Skiing in the Alps!

We do have funds available to train our leaders in all adventurous and non-adventurous activities. We have Explorer Scouts first aid trained to same level as adult leaders. We are now planning to train adults in powerboating and canoeing as well as various land activities. This will help having fully trained adults to be able to provide better programmes for our young people.

Lastly I would like to thank all the Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders, helpers & supporters at all of our Units. They put the hours in every week throughout the year. Keith Angliss and Keith Johnston who support me with the financial reporting. To the Group Scout Leaders & Scout Leaders who support with meeting places, equipment and the moving on of the Scouts to Explorer Scouts. Finally to Joe Rogerson and the District Team, Andy Edmonds and all the District Executive who have supported our section throughout the year, both for the programme side and on our ever increasing financial activity.



### **District SASU Report May 2014–April 2015: Robert Brumwell**

Over the last twelve months we have been pleased to assist the District in various ways from acting as stewards at St George's Day to assisting at Sports Day. We also provided the catering for and assisted at the District AGM.

Our members also carry out various administrative tasks for the district.

In addition to our service side we have had a full social side with theatre trips a visit to a national trust property, summer and New Year meals and social evenings at DHQ.

This year we will be continuing with both our service side and also have some interesting social activities planned.

To enable us to continue and improve our service to the District we need additional members who can take an active part in helping the District.

If anybody would like to join us or knows of somebody who would like to take part in Scouting but cannot give a full time commitment please contact Dave on 07768 381 809.

We only ask that you help occasionally throughout the year.

### **Morden Hall Park DHQ Report May 2014–April 2015: Alan Green**

It has been an interesting year, the HQ is being used by more and more sections for activities which is very good. The down side for the maintenance team is that it is becoming harder to fit in the essential maintenance work and, more visibly, the grass in the field is being worn out! If you are planning to use the hall I recommend that you book the date early as some weeks the hall is being used every night.

During the year we have replaced the internal fences. In the process we removed the kinks in the old fence line and gained a lot of ground. With permission from the National Trust we have removed lower branches from some of the trees to allow more light to reach the grass, so hopefully it will grow better. Please note that while the road-side area can be used by members the park-side area is out of bounds, our lease states it is a buffer zone to screen the hall from the park.

Work has continued to replace rotten parts of the hall and to rebuild the disabled access toilet. The new layout will be DDA compliant with a full set of hand rails and the correct type of toilet.

I must end by thanking everyone who has helped maintain and enhance the DHQ and thank Betty and Bill Cronk for managing the increase in bookings and Joan and Cliff Condon for dealing with the more frequent issue of the keys for users.

## **District Store Report May 2014–April 2015: Brian Whalebone (Manager)/Bernie Pike (Treasurer)**

We are pleased to report that the store has again returned a good profit and although sales are down from £7592 to £7069 the net profit is up from £1503 to £1806. Like in previous years the whole of this profit will be returned to the groups Pro rata to the amount spent.

The Bank Balance has increased from £1251 to £1655

Gross profit margin and profit as a percentage of sales are consistent at 25% and 26% respectively up from 22% and 20% over last year.

We had hoped to pay out the profit share by BACS transfer last year but due to technical problems this was not achievable, however there were no cheques remaining un-cashed at the end of the year unlike previous years.

There are changes ahead to the uniform and the resources, which may inevitably lead to redundant stock in the future, something that will have to be carefully monitored.

I have been overseeing the Store accounts for the last 19 years and have seen the turnover and profits increase significantly in that time. This is in no small measure due to the continuing enthusiasm of Brian in organising the store over the same length of time, even longer if his assistance to the previous store managers is taken into account.

However I now feel that it is time to hand over the treasurer's job to someone new and I shall be retiring from this post at the end of July 2015. This will give the new incumbent time to familiarize him/her self with the accounts.

Finally it only remains to say a thank you to Lesley for stepping in on a Thursday when the need arises and to all the Groups and parents who purchase their requirements from the store.

## **District Band Report May 2014–April 2015: Richard Thorpe**



Membership 18 on the books, with 3 reserves.

The band has been concentrating on bring up the standards of the younger members, we have struggled with adult instructors for Brass and Tuned Percussion, so we have given some of the responsibility of teaching to the Explorers and Older Scouts. We have been out on a few recruitment evenings

around the 2 districts with no great results as these were Beaver Colonies and Cub Pack. We have been meeting our parade commitments over the year.

1. Performance for Royal Marsden March
2. 3 x St Georges Day Dorking, Sutton and Wimbledon
3. Armed Force Day for Merton Council
4. 2 x Parades for the Catholic Churches Woking and Sutton
5. Remembrance Day Parade For Mitcham Poppy Club
6. Carols for the Senior Citizens at St Peter and St Pauls School
7. Bag Packing ASDA for 2 Days

We are in the process of purchasing 3 Marching Bell Lyres for the young members and having all the Instruments donated from the 1<sup>st</sup> Wallington Band by mid May.

Looking to do a more recruitment:

**\*\*\*\*\*Your District Band Needs New Members\*\*\*\*\***

**If you want us to come down one evening to keep the kids entertained call me to arrange a Visit to your group one evening.**

And we have an ever growing parade schedule for 2015:

1. Theatre Royal Drury Lane Youth Drum Corps
2. Performance for Royal Marsden March
3. 3 x St Georges Day Dorking, Sutton and Wimbledon
4. May Queen Woodmansterne Village
5. St Christopher's Hospice Keston Kent
6. Armed Force Day for Merton Council
7. New Addington Carnival
8. 2 x Parades for the Catholic Churches in Woking and Sutton
9. Hastings Carnival (3 Day Band Camp) 7-9 August
10. Remembrance Day Parade in Mitcham
11. Denbies Vineyard Evening Performance
12. Carols for the Senior Citizens at St Peter and St Pauls School

So lots planned for this year: onwards and upwards!

Richard Thorpe

Bandmaster

07940 489496

[www.wwdsb.co.uk](http://www.wwdsb.co.uk)