

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2008



Background

The Group is an educational charity established under rules that are common within The Scout Association (“the Association”). It is registered with the Association under reg. no. 24821 and with the Charity Commission under reg. no. 1067169. The governing document of the Association is the Royal Charter of 1912 as subsequently amended.

The Group has Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, which are based at The Scout Hut, Queen’s Road, Gossoms End, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association. The trustees are the Group Executive Committee, and may include *ex officio* members, those elected by the Group Council, those nominated by the Group Scout Leader, and co-opted members.

The trustees during the year under review, and the subsequent changes, were:

Lucille Aiton – chairman (from 15 July 2007)

Michael Gold - chairman (to 16 May 2007)

Judy Grundy – Beaver Leader

Nigel Atkinson - treasurer

Gill Lord – secretary

Lily Donlan – fund raising

The trustees are supported by a team of assistant treasurers, fundraisers, and parent representatives.

Contact Name and Address

Lucille Aiton, 6 Falcon Ridge, Berkhamsted HP4 2HJ

Review of main activities and achievements

Group: 2007 was the centenary year for the Scout Movement, which began in 1907 with a camp for 21 boys on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Worldwide membership is now over 28 million. 1st Gossoms End Scout group is flourishing in its 65th year, as the abbreviated section reports below show. We depend totally on the time and devotion given by the unpaid uniformed leaders and by the unpaid committee members and supporters. Our greatest need at the moment is for more adult assistance. This can either be as a “frontline” section helper, or providing vital support “backstage”. All necessary training is provided free. It is not essential to have previously been a Scout or Guide. Try it and enjoy it! The children of all adult helpers are guaranteed a place in the appropriate section for their age, regardless of waiting lists! Please talk to a leader at the Group AGM on 13 July 2008 (or whenever you can).

Beaver Scouts: The Beavers have had a busy time, with several centenary year activities. These, and other events, began in April with the St George’s Day Parade in Tring with a hot air balloon there, and also included trekking and tracking, a centenary party, a BBQ and Tug o’War in Wendover Woods, watching the sunrise at Northchurch Common, celebrations at Phasels, and Challenge Day at Gilwell Park. Well done to the three of our Beavers who received their Chief Scout Bronze Awards in March!

Cub Scouts: The Cub Pack ended the year full, with 11 boys arriving and 13 moving on. During the year we have done: map reading & compasses, the "100 Challenges", Naturalists badge, bivouac building in Ashridge, problem solving in the hut, plus loads of games and sports and that great British favourite - conkers. Cub Camp 2007 was the wettest on record, but the boys still managed to have a great time - shame there isn't a wet weather survival badge! Cooking pancakes in a can with a candle was a big hit, and no burnt fingers again. We came 3rd again in the West Herts Swimming Gala, with one boy selected to go through to represent us at the County Gala. We are grateful to all those parents who have helped throughout the year, and especially to those who are planning to start a second Pack in the autumn to meet the high demand.

Scouts: Numbers have gone up over the year, and patrols have increased from 4 to 6. Summer camp in 2007 was held in North Wales, with the programme including walking, climbing, swimming, cooking on open fires. Easter Camp, at Great Towers in the Lake District, was greatly aided by the presence of two parents and saw the launch of a camp report (with photos) uploaded daily to the Group's website. As usual we are running about one weekend camp a month throughout the year. We are looking forward to our fortnight's summer camp this year at the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. For more details have a look at the Group website, mainly the Calendar and the online booking in the Scouts section www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk

Committee changes: Lucille Aiton formally took over the important role of Chairman at last year's AGM, having been acting Chairman for a couple of months before that. The uniformed leaders need, and deserve, strong support from the Executive Committee where there is room for more members!

Scout Hut: Over the past few years we have been working hard to improve our Scout Hut. Following previous expenditure on central heating and a new roof, we have recently had cavity wall insulation installed and have lagged the heating pipes. Considerable savings in consumption of gas are apparent, and the building is more comfortable to use in the heating season. However, significant increases in unit costs are expected when our present fixed-price contracts expire. We were grateful to the Berkhamsted Community Partnership for a grant towards the cost of the cavity wall insulation. Future plans include replacing the main hall floor, which is old and now starting to break up.

Accounts: The accounts, on page 4, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis, consistent with the previous year. The General Fund shows receipts exceeding payments by £3,582 during the year, and with a balance of £8,110. Hut maintenance and improvement costs were lower than in the previous year, and two income tax reclaims were received in the year. The Camp Fund shows a large excess of receipts over payments in this financial year, as fees for the 2008 summer camp in Switzerland have been received in advance (less certain costs already paid out). Grant money received and unexpended at 31 March 2008 amounted to £490.

Approved by the Group Executive Committee and signed on its behalf:

Lucille Aiton – 13 July 2008

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Independent Examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee

Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2008

I report on the accounts of 1st Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2008, which are set out on page 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act;have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Robinson, FCA
36 Trevelyan Way
Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 1JH

13 July 2008

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2008

Receipts & Payments Account

	Fund:			Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
	General	Grants	Camps		
	(unrestricted) 2008 £	(restricted) 2008 £	(restricted) 2008 £		
Receipts					
Subscriptions - for calendar year	5,484	0	0	5,484	5,544
less: National and District subscriptions	2,270	0	0	2,270	2,198
Group subscriptions	3,214	0	0	3,214	3,346
Donations and general grants	370	0	0	370	220
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations	1,898	0	0	1,898	881
Fund raising/events	142	0	0	142	683
Grants towards cavity wall insulation/roof renewal	0	100	0	100	5,368
Hall lettings	5,670	0	0	5,670	5,327
Camp fees etc	0	0	21,687	21,687	6,808
Interest	71	0	77	148	61
Total Receipts	11,365	100	21,764	33,229	22,693
Payments					
Hall maintenance	1,190	0	0	1,190	3,104
Hall - electricity, gas and water	3,105	0	0	3,105	2,347
Insurance - hall & contents	832	0	0	832	782
Camps	0	0	7,161	7,161	5,311
Weekly activities, badges, scarves, etc	1,499	0	0	1,499	1,049
Leader/adult training	0	350	0	350	160
Camping equipment	0	0	408	408	131
Fund raising/events	227	0	0	227	593
Cavity wall insulation	950	100	0	1,050	0
Roof replacement	0	0	0	0	12,749
Total Payments	7,803	450	7,569	15,822	26,226
Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)	3,562	(350)	14,195	17,407	(3,533)
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2007	4,548	840	1,966	7,354	10,887
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2008	8,110	490	16,161	24,761	7,354

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2008

	2008 £	2008 £	2008 £	2008 £	2007 £
Monetary Assets					
National Westminster Bank	5,285	0	0	5,285	3,039
HSBC	0	0	15,612	15,612	1,760
Nationwide Building Society	1,732	490	0	2,222	2,259
CAF Bank	1,003	0	0	1,003	0
Petty cash	90	0	549	639	296
	8,110	490	16,161	24,761	7,354
Income Tax claims to be made	100	0	0	100	1,040
Debtors - inc hall lettings	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Monetary Assets - for own use					
Freehold property in Queen's Road, Berkhamsted - vested in The Scout Association Trust Corporation					
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc					
Liabilities due within one year					
Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	100	0	0	100	280

The unexpended grants at 31 March 2008 were for training.

The balance in the Camps fund represents £14,185 received for future camps (net of advance expenses) and £1,976 for the future replacement of camping equipment.

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 13 July 2008
and signed on its behalf by:

Lucille Aiton - Chairman

Nigel Atkinson - Treasurer