

# 1<sup>st</sup> GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

## Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2011



### 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 registered number 24821 and with the Charity Commission under registered number 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, Queens Road, Gossoms End, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU. The Akeman Explorer Scout Unit, which also uses The Scout Hut, is administered as part of West Herts District Scout Council (registered charity no. 302518) and is not dealt with in the Annual Report and Accounts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Group.

### 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 to date were:

Lily Donlan	(Group Chairman)
Jo McAulay	(Group Scout Leader)
Judy Grundy	(Beaver Leader)
Fiona O'Grady	(Group Treasurer)
Sarah Davis	(Group Secretary to 5 July 2010)
Clare Huggett	(Group Secretary from 5 July 2010 to 28 January 2011)
Julia Bragg	(Group Secretary from 15 March 2011)

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### Contact Name and Address

Jo McAulay, 4 South Park Gardens, Berkhamsted HP4 1JA

### Review of main activities, achievements and future plans

**Group:** The Group continues to flourish and to operate at near maximum capacity for the present number of leaders. Many thanks are, as usual, due to the leaders, their assistants, and to the committee members and supporters – not forgetting those who have retired or changed roles during the year. The success of the Group depends entirely on the time and commitment given by all of these unpaid volunteers.

After much effort, the long awaited minibus was purchased in September. Nearly two-thirds of the cost was covered by the £11,800 of grants and by almost £2,200 of donations (including gift-aid recovery). The balance has been met by a short-term loan from the District and from general funds. This purchase is already being of considerable benefit – in removing the limitation on numbers that can be transported in leaders' cars, avoiding expensive hirings, and providing much greater flexibility for outside activities on meeting nights.

**Beaver Scouts:** In the last year 13 Beavers moved up to Cubs of whom 4 had achieved their Bronze Awards. Most of the Beavers have now achieved challenge badges in at least one of the

Promise, Global, Outdoor and Fitness Challenges. Outdoor activities included St Georges Day Parade through Tring High Street, and a very wet District BBQ at Wendover Woods - though the Beavers still managed to build shelters from loose branches and hold the annual tug of war competition. The Christmas Hike through Phasels was very well attended - over 180 people chasing Rudolph through the dark woods. Many of the Beavers attended the family camp in 2010 and had a great time.

**Cub Scouts:** The Monday Pack has continued with a full set of four sixes throughout the year. Following Richard Storey's resignation in July 2010 a new team of four leaders took over running the weekly meetings. Weekly meetings have covered a number of the different challenge badges as well as several outdoor meetings. A camp was held in May that was attended by 20 Cubs. A challenge to beat the Friday Pack at Quasar resulted in a successful joint meeting in Hemel. As part of their Spiritual development a meeting was held looking at the various beliefs of four different religions. The Pack was well represented at the Remembrance Day and St George's Parades and at the family camp in June.

The Friday Pack now has 28 Cubs, both girls and boys. There is a very full waiting list that is shared with the Monday Pack. The two leaders are supported by a willing rota of parents, who bring many skills to the team. The pack is very active and has achieved success in gaining badges of many types – with concentration on the chef's and science badges, the latter involving making balloon powered model cars. With the help of several of the parents, Hemel Hempstead Athletics track was visited, where all of the cubs took their Athletes or Athletes Plus badge. Compared to the previous year, there was a strong improvement in the District swimming gala where the pack finished fourth, and with one of the cubs being picked to represent the District. Once again, the Monday pack was challenged to a successful Quasar duel, followed by a burger meal, after a one-game-all drawn result.

**Scouts:** The Troop currently numbers 34, with 11 more due to come up from Cubs by the end of the year. As usual a full programme was held with the emphasis on camping activities. Easter camp was held on 2 canal boats and covered the Warwickshire Ring on the Midland Waterways which included 103 miles, 119 locks, 5 tunnels and 60 hours cruising during the week. Summer camp was a week in the North York Moors. Between May & October there was sailing once a month as well as a weekend camp each month. Information and updates on activities are now available on Twitter as well as on Facebook. Further details about all of these events, can be found in the Scouts section of the Group website: [www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk](http://www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk) complete with many photos.

**Accounts:** The accounts, on page 4, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis (rather than on an income and expenditure basis) as in previous years. The General Fund shows payments exceeding receipts by nearly £5,000 during the year, resulting in a reduced balance on that fund of just under £7,500. The General Fund payments of £21,500 included almost £8,000 towards the cost of the minibus. Hall lettings accounted for about half of the General Fund receipts, thereby providing a vital source of income. As usual, the claim for income tax refunds under the gift-aid scheme were made after the end of the financial year to which they relate. The Camps & Activities Fund includes receipts and payments for camps planned for later in this calendar year and next, and also holds money set aside for spending on activities and equipment. All grant money received had been expended at 31 March 2011, with £4,000 of the £6,000 loan from the District remaining to be repaid at that date. The levels of reserves held are thought to be appropriate to meet future commitments and contingencies.

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

Lily Donlan – 4 July 2011

# **1<sup>st</sup> GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP**

## **Independent Examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee (the charity's Trustees)**

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### **Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2011**

I report on the accounts of 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2011, 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), as amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2006, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the 1993 Act, as amended);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended); and
- 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### ***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 kept, 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

36 Trevelyan Way, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1JH

4 July 2011

**1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP**  
**Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2011**

Receipts & Payments Account	Funds:			Total	Total
	General (unrestricted)	Grants & loans (restricted)	Camps & Activities (restricted)		
	31.3.11 £	31.3.11 £	31.3.11 £	31.3.11 £	31.3.10 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Subscriptions - for calendar year	9,484	-	-	9,484	9,238
less: National and District subscriptions	4,218	-	-	4,218	3,996
Group subscriptions	5,266	-	-	5,266	5,242
Donations and general grants	818	-	-	818	162
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations	2,464	-	-	2,464	1,477
Fund raising events	-	-	-	-	229
Grants towards minibus/hall floor	-	11,800	-	11,800	4,125
Donations re minibus	-	1,710	-	1,710	-
Loan re minibus	-	6,000	-	6,000	-
Hall lettings	8,027	-	-	8,027	7,655
Camps	-	-	6,607	6,607	2,725
Fees for future camps	-	-	3,440	3,440	5,430
Activities	-	-	455	455	560
Interest	13	-	-	13	12
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16,588</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>10,502</b>	<b>46,600</b>	<b>27,617</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Property maintenance	5,282	-	-	5,282	2,811
Hall - new floor	-	-	-	-	4,775
Hall - electricity, gas and water	1,459	-	-	1,459	1,897
Insurance - hall & contents	909	-	-	909	887
Camps	-	-	7,647	7,647	6,496
Expenses of future camps	-	-	1,292	1,292	2,882
Activities	2,127	-	1,304	3,431	2,334
Camping & general equipment	812	-	508	1,320	3,406
Minibus purchase	7,980	13,992	-	21,972	-
Minibus insurance	1,270	-	-	1,270	-
Minibus expenses	1,670	-	-	1,670	-
Minibus loan repayment	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>21,509</b>	<b>15,992</b>	<b>10,751</b>	<b>48,252</b>	<b>25,488</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)</b>	<b>(4,921)</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>(249)</b>	<b>(1,652)</b>	<b>2,129</b>
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2010	12,402	-	3,883	16,285	14,156
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2011	7,481	3,518	3,634	14,633	16,285
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2011</b>					
	31.3.11	31.3.11	31.3.11	31.3.11	31.3.10
		£	£	£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
CAF Bank	7,461	3,518	334	11,313	12,306
HSBC	-	-	3,117	3,117	2,914
National Westminster Bank	-	-	-	-	76
Nationwide Building Society	20	-	-	20	20
Cash	-	-	183	183	969
	<b>7,481</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>14,633</b>	<b>16,285</b>
Income Tax claims	2,213	482	-	2,695	2,460
Debtors - inc hall lettings & subscriptions	1,043	-	-	1,043	1,200
<b>Non-Monetary Assets - for own use</b>					
Freehold property in Queen's Road, Berkhamsted - vested in The Scout Association Trust Corporation					
Minibus, Scouting equipment, furniture, etc					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loan & accrued interest to date (repayable by 31 December 2012)	125	4,000	-	4,125	-
Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	331	-	-	331	850
The £3,634 balance in the Camps & Activities Fund represents £2,148 received for future camps (net of advance expenses) and £1,486 for future activities and purchase of equipment.					

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 4 July 2011  
and signed on its behalf by:

Lily Donlan - Chairman

Fiona O'Grady - Treasurer