

Itchen South District Scout Council AGM Reports

22nd March 2016 Cricket Activity Centre



ISDSC AGM

District Treasurer - Charles Hockley

The Treasurer's report is a separate document.

Acting District Chairman - Aileen Wood

At the last AGM Ian Hallett indicated that work commitments meant he was unable to carry on in the role of District Chairman. Your time spent in office had been appreciated, and I know you continue to support scouting within the District. I took on the role as caretaker assuming the position of Acting District Chairman in September 2015.

I would like to start by thanking Sharon Ross, who as, DC, has faced some challenging issues within the District this year. These include updates to the section programmes; safeguarding; changes to Network Scouts which now embraces all 18-25 year olds; recruitment and retention of leaders; training, leases and a lack of Compass.

Scouting numbers have remained steady with nearly a 1000 members, inclusive of young people, leaders, helpers and supporters. The range of activities undertaken by all sections and groups is remarkable from international expeditions and mountaineering, to visits, badge work and trophy activities weekends. The Canoe Centre continues to attract a lot of business and is popular with many organisations, not just scouts.

Bushcraft officially transferred to Cricket Camp from County. It now forms part of the Scout Active Support Unit (SAS). The range of skills further enhances the activities. The introduction of Tomahawk Throwing adds a new dimension to the choices of activities.

Aileen Wood retired from post Development Officer in August, regrettably having to close the CMI Centre and other activities that can no longer be sustained at the Campsite.

At Cricket Camp, we finally lost the use of the top field to a housing development and with it the ability to support large camps, ultimately, leading to a loss of income (£5000-£7000pa.) Dan Wiseman has continued to provide guidance and advice on a range of planning issues. We are extremely grateful for all the hours and enthusiasm he has put in on our behalf.

Negotiations with Hampshire County Council have continued regarding the lease for the campsite and the Lodge. The peppercorn rent which we have enjoyed for so many years has not been renewed. Instead, on an escalating scale, we will be paying £5000 in rent with effect from 2020. Martin Dale, ADC Campsite, now has a testing time ahead to reposition the (renamed) Cricket Activity Centre.

Our main sources of revenue continues to come from the Southampton Scout Finance committee and the rental from the former 2/26 HQ building. The Lodge is the major income earner for the campsite, being booked for 48 weekends in 2015. Further monies come from the activities. We have hosted a number of groups and organisations – Southern Entrepreneurs, Craft Day, schools and colleges, Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council as well as scouts and guides and other youth groups.

So many people work behind the scenes – Group & District executive members, trainers, instructors. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of Karen Williams (District Secretary); June Burton (Appointments Secretary), Su Brakewell, (Chairman of the Appointments Committee), Kevin Gillkerson (IT support). All have vital roles to play in making the District so viable. Thank you for your ongoing support, life would be much harder without you. My thanks to Charles Hockley, District Treasurer for ensuring the monies are banked and paid and all the accounts have been audited. Lynn Knight, Campsite Treasurer, stood down in the Autumn after many years in the role. Again thank you Lynn for all your hard work. My thanks to HJS Accountants for once again being our auditor.

As will be seen from all the Reports, the District is incredibly active. The fervour shown by our young people is a tribute to the exciting programmes provided by our leaders. The commitment of our members is amazing. Thank you for making scouting so enjoyable in Itchen South. All the best in Scouting

ISDSC AGM

District Commissioner - Sharon Ross

We have, yet again in Itchen South, had another fantastic year. Scouting continues to grow and progress and offer many diverse adventures for its members. The new look balanced programme has been revamped to show many new and exciting activity and staged activity badges and awards that can be achieved for all sections. Even the adults are getting excited about the Tesco Eat Happy Project which gives them access to the Farm to Fork Trail. There are so many opportunities to gain experiences that would never be part of normal life. Even the Cubs 100 and Beaver 30 year celebrations are bringing strange and exciting experiences to everyday Cubs and Beavers with opportunities to sleep at museums and zoos which this District have taken part in.

Beavers continue moving forward with Gambados and The Dambusters Trophy and are looking forward to their District Camp celebrating the Beavers reaching 30 years. The Cubs are also looking forward to celebrating their 100 years with a District Camp coming up. They have had an enjoyable and adventurous year taking part in many activities. Scouts are also moving forward with new District Challenges and events being organised and Explorers continue with their varied range of challenges and camps. Networks are starting to build themselves with new and exciting International, Adventure and Community projects. Young Leaders are doing very well and we hope to have more being awarded their Young Leader Belt this year. The District Awards Programme is a fantastic opportunity for youth to gain the more adventurous parts of the Top Awards and we have a brilliant and dynamic team helping them achieve this.

The Campsite is moving forward rapidly with the help of the Old Scout Bushcraft SAS Unit who are providing their skills and knowledge to assist with site activities and maintenance. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to take on this SAS Unit.

The Development on the top field is now under way and we are currently negotiating with Hampshire County Council on the terms of the Lease for the Campsite. We are fortunate to have the help of Dan Wiseman who is expert in planning matters and we are awaiting a response from HCC with reference to the negotiations for the rental of the site.

As always, everything we do is voluntary but without the hard work and effort of all Leaders and ADC's within the District, as well as the Group and Executive Committees, none of the above can take place. It is always a joy to be able to see the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Networks beaming with smiles and giggling and we usually always have a laugh taking part in these sometimes weird activities. It is due to the huge commitment of everyone involved that we can continue to progress and I would like to thank each and every one of you within Itchen South for their support.

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ADC Beavers - Gary Foote

Since last years AGM the Beavers in Itchen South have been busy yet again.

It all started with Beaver District Easter Egg hunt where the beavers were running around cricket trying to find letters.

In June we came along to District camp for a one night stay with the rest of the District.

In September we held the Dambuster Trophy where the beavers had to complete in several challenges. The 32nd won this year. Well done to them.

After last years successful visit, we all descended on Marwell again. We saw loads of animals and Father and Mother Christmas. Fortunately the weather was better for us this year.

In December, we held our Christmas Carol Service. At this event we announced the winner of the 30th Badge design which was won by Molly from the 6th Hamble. About 130 beavers, leaders, parents and guests joined us for carols.

We went to Gambado's again this February. We had 100% attendance from all groups and 180 children ran, giggled, spun, climbed for two hours. I think all had loads of fun.

We finished our year with the Archery competition. This year's winners were 6th Hamble for the second year running and they are now the proud owners of our trophy.

This Year is 30th year for the beavers and to celebrate we are holding a camp joined with Itchen North Beavers at Sandy Acres, The camp is called BB FEST 16 and going to be packed with fun stuff. This takes place on the 18th June/ 19th June.

Thanks for a great year and for all the support I get from all leaders.

ADC Cubs - Mark Avis

The year started off with the cub archery competition which was won by the 4th Netley. The highest score was also won by a cub from the 4th Netley, so a clean sweep!

District Camp was attended by some of the groups and everyone who went reported that they had a great time playing pirates.

All groups have had their own camps and sleepovers during the year, some even daring to venture abroad!

4th and 7th visited the cub evening laid on at The Mary Rose Museum. They had people in costumes giving talks on their jobs on board the ship. King Henry VIII was also present (got back ache having to keep bowing every time he went past!) Interactive activities were laid on and of course the dreaded shop was opened!

In July we held the Chief Scout Silver Award at Cricket Campfire Circle. Parents came along and joined in with the campfire songs and thanks to Adrian, Phil and Julie for making it a successful event.

County Cub Brainbox Challenge replaced the old Mastermind Competition and Itchen South were represented by a team comprising of 1st Woolston and 7th Bursledon. Sadly they did not get placed but they all enjoyed the activities and the challenges put on. Design a badge for Centenary Camp was won by 14th Itchen's Megan Dries and a copy of the badge and design was framed and presented to her at their meeting at Rock Up!

The Cub Carol Service was held at St Paul's Church, Bursledon.

2016

This year is all about the 100 years of cubs and we hope that all groups will join in the celebration with many activities available to them. This year some of the District events will be held at the Centenary Camp as Groups are busy organising their own celebrations.

Centenary Camp

This camp is booked for 3-5th June 2016 at Sandy Acres. Visits to Groups by Mark, Martin and Derren to communicate to parents and cubs about the camp was met with a positive response. All Groups attending have been given a poster to display in their HQ to promote the camp along with camp fire song sheets, a hard copy of the information. Organising of the camp is well under way and I would like to thank Martin, Jan, Phil, Adrian and Derren for all their help in the planning and organising of the camp.

We are looking into holding a get together to celebrate the 100 years of cubs on 16th December and for everyone to retake their promise.

Thank you to all the cub leaders for their support and looking forward to hearing and seeing the many celebrations that are going to happen.

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ADC Scouts - Neil O'Sullivan

I've been in this role for approx. 5 months and I've been able to put together a district programme for the next 12 months.

My aim is to provide a programme that will enhance the Troops own programmes, offering the opportunity for Troops to inter-act more regularly and compete for a few trophies.

The troops are all doing well. The youth numbers are pretty good throughout but we do have some areas whereby leadership is low...so if anyone fancies getting involved in one of the troops, please do let me know. There are some really interesting programmes planned within the troops with plenty of Adventure set for 2016.

I'm currently working my way around all the troops, for a general visit. This will enable me to meet the wider Leadership teams, alongside the troops being able to put a face to a name.

During my time as ADC Scouts, we've been able to hold 2 District Scout Leaders meeting, with a 3rd scheduled this week. Both meetings have been prompt, positive, constructive (with regards to required outcome) and hopefully supportive.

Two events have taken place so far, the Nutters Trophy Incident hike and the first of 4 District Challenges scheduled for the year. We are bringing back the District Emlyn Competition Camp, this May, with a reduction on the competitive side and an increase in training, guidance and support.

Later this year we'll be seeing the PL's & APL's brought together as a wider team in the District. The aim is to allow the senior members of the Scout section to gain some further leadership skills, get involved in the District programme having their say on its content and providing a forum for them to feedback to the District Team; what is it the Scouts would really like to get out of future Group, Troop & District events.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank the Scout Troop Leaders of the District. They have welcomed me into the team and there is no doubt they are 'committed to the cause' and provide fantastic opportunities and adventure for their troops. They are all great assets to the District. I still have some work to do to provide further support for the troops and hope I am able to meet those requirements. I'm feeling very positive and excited about 2016 and the prospects of the Scout section. When we meet in this same forum next year, I hope to be able to report back even greater successes within the Scout section.

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DESC - Stuart Morgan

This year has been a very successful year for Explorers. We've had several go on international expeditions; some chief scouts platinum awards, Young Leader Awards and a large number of great activities that have involved all units.

We've had the 2nd annual cardboard boat race and soap box derby. A large number of units took part in the national monopoly run in and completely invaded London along with thousands of other units a few weeks ago.

Spitfires

Spitfires have grown steadily in Explorer numbers and we presently have a total of 15. The unit has spent a lot of time outside having fun and learning. They have completed several hikes, and experienced and practised survival skills at camp. They have also had other camps where they could buy the food and not just eat whatever they caught!

The Explorers have also been making knives and sheaths. This includes tempering the metal in a hot fire. Shaping and sharpening with tools and then leather craft to make the sheaths. Explorers and Leaders have taken an active part in Roverang and Hedge End Gang show. The Leader Team has also grown and has recently and in the early part of 2016 Mark has stood down and Alex has taken on the role of Leader. Mark has taken on an assistant role.

Spitfires also successfully handcrafted a canoe out of a tree trunk and have proved its capability with a maiden voyage at Eastleigh lakes.

Poseidon

Poseidon have been as busy as always and have undertaken: Overnight kayaking expedition Weekend camping (in February) including helping clear the car parks at Cricket. RN Soccer Sixes Tournament – knocked out in the Quarter-final of the Cup RN Explorer camp – week long camp aboard HMS Bristol doing water activity courses. Six explorers attended, four on activity camp (different activity each day), one passed RYA level 2 power boat, one passed RYA assistant dinghy instructor.

They have also had evenings doing things like £5 meal challenge, real life Where's Wally, rifle shooting and dry slope skiing. The Explorers have planned several fundraising activities (including a 24hr nonstop hike on the south downs) to raise funds for new boating equipment.

One of their Explorers has just passed his RYA Day Skipper theory and is helping out at Southampton Water Activities Centre, partly due to the opportunities that Scouting and the RN Recognition Scheme have given him

Columbus

At Columbus, the new leadership team are working well together and they have had a good year, their numbers are increasing, which is excellent. They have a high number of Explorers signing up to undertake their camps and weekend activities. They have just had a great time on the London monopoly run. Thinking back further in the year their explorers and leadership team thoroughly enjoyed the cardboard boat race and the soapbox derby, as well as a summer camp surfing and coastering in Bude with Spartan.

Spartan

Spartan continues to be an active unit taking part in all adventures. This year they had a summer camp with Columbus, in Bude, which was a great success. Two of the Explorers are just finishing their diamond award and one has just finished platinum. Some of the unit attended the recent Swiss Adventure and took part in Skiing, Snowboarding, Curling and even igloo building. Spartan have a number of members who are about to take part in Roverang.

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Young Leader Unit

The Young Leader unit has worked really well in the last year and is working jointly with Itchen North to deliver the Young Leader training programme. Several Young Leader awards have been completed this year. If you have any Young Leaders assisting in your section then they must complete Module A. Please see Richard Rex for more information.

Senior Awards Unit

The senior awards unit meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Cricket and provides training and support for Explorers and Network Scouts who are keen to achieve the highest awards in Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We have seen the unit grow in numbers this year and expect to see a number of awards achieved. If you or any of your Explorer, Network or Young Leaders are interested then please speak to Stuart for more information.

District Network Commissioner - Rexie Rex

After the first full year of the Itchen South Network (Trojan) being in place, things are showing real promise.

It has been quite a slow start and regularly attending members are still relatively low in comparison to the number of 18 – 25 year olds within the district. Now that Compass is up and running, contacting these members to try and encourage them to take the opportunities available to them, should be easier. This does rely on ensuring data on compass being accurate; which is one of my main objectives for the future.

With the imminent release of the Network digital platform, we are looking forward to be able to share ideas and join in with other activities and project around the county, country and even the world!

Networks have taken part a full and varied programme, prepared by themselves; and have planned well ahead for the future, to include a possible international trip at Christmas to help them work towards some top awards. They also, now have their very own flag for parades!

All of the attending members are very proactive and are keen to move our Network forward; growing it in numbers and opening as many opportunities to 18 – 25 year olds within the district to 'join the adventure'.

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ADC Campsite - Martin Dale

2015 has been extremely successful for cricket campsite; we have a strong team and committee which have made a huge difference to the site and its visitors. We have re branded to Cricket Activity Centre bringing in Solent University who have designed a fantastic brochure for us.

The lodge itself has begun its face-lift, with decorating being done throughout and new furniture has been bought in to modernise the look of the building. New showers have been installed upstairs, which has added to the appeal of the site, in turn this has brought in a huge amount of bookings. The offices have been restructured, making them a little more practical and welcoming to all site visitors.

Outside we have now lost the top field but this has not made a massive impact on bookings. The fencing has been repaired around the whole site and a lot of rubbish has now been removed, making way for improvement of existing activities and also bringing in new ones.

Although we have had a few obstacles to overcome, an unexpected water bill and the electrical safety certificate, we have also been in talks with Calor and a new gas pipe has been installed, making it safer due to change of legislation.

We have built a strong relationship with the fire brigade and Hedge End police station, working together to ensure maximum safety around and throughout the site.

2015 also saw the launch of Old Scout Bushcraft into Itchen South, bringing with them all the knowledge of survival and outdoor living skills. They are available for outreach sessions within your groups, processed through the normal booking procedures. Whether it is simple fire lighting or in depth adult training they have become a life line to the site.

We have opened our doors to Friends of Intouch, which is a specialised group for autistic children, allowing them to run activities on site in a controlled environment, which will lead to a specialised scout unit within the district. This year we are pleased to announce we have a number of international groups using the site, in due course we will be asking the district to get involved with helping them enjoy their time with Itchen South.

Lastly we are planning various different fundraising events this year to support the site and make it a fantastic place which is fun for all to use, if you would like to get involved or have any ideas on how to make it massive please come on down to the site as we value any suggestions. All the questions from the recent coffee morning will be issued shortly; this was a fantastic morning full of brilliant ideas. We look forward to the year ahead and thank you all in advance for your support.

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Adult Training - Aileen Wood, Training Advisor

The ongoing issues around Compass continue to be a concern. Many records have not been updated including training records, Woodbadges applications and DBS checks. It has been extremely difficult to keep track of the training undertaken in the District. Several leaders are waiting for confirmation of their appointments.

Getting started courses continue to be held monthly, with a mixed attendance of newly appointed leaders from North & South. Although the training commitment is explained at Appointments and Module 1, many leaders fail to follow up their training, complete their Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) or validate Modules 1 & 3. As with previous years a number of training modules have been run in the District either at Cricket Camp or at the 7th Bursledon HQ. Once again these are well attended, but rarely by leaders from Itchen South.

The Adult Personal File and TA Guide have been re-vamped employing a new set of questions to assist in validation of individual modules. Well done to the TAs for their perseverance in trying to meet leaders to validate their training. The easiest way to validate training is to visit the leader in his / her HQ and do an observation session followed by a discussion.

HQ has continued to update a number of Modules, including re-issuing Module 1. Many more are online or available as workbooks. These include the mandatory training such as safeguarding and safety.

Several leaders have updated their first response certificates or completed refresher course. My thanks to Jen Upton & Malcolm Thornton at 3rd Itchen North and Chris Walker Itchen South for running these sessions.

The TAs from Itchen North & Itchen South Districts meet once a term to discuss their concerns, leaders' progress and be updated on training activities. Graham Taylor decided, after many years of dedicated service, to stand down from active scouting. Graham has chaired the appointments Committee, assisted with running courses, undertaken validation, provided guidance and generally offered a lot of support to leaders within the District. A massive thank you for all you have done for us.

My thanks to:

June Burton for her ongoing multi-tasking support – arranging the Appointments; reminding leaders to attend Getting Started, following up training, validating learning, helping with feedback session and providing refreshment at the courses.

Jen Upton and the TAs for continuing to support leaders and help them complete their training.

Sharon Ross – as DCs continuing to endorse the Scout Adult Training Programme.

Congratulations to those leaders who received their Woodbadges or gained their Nights Away permits.

Jan Barfoot has been appointed Local Training Manager for Itchen South, and assumed her role at the beginning for 2016.

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Canoe Centre - Joan Veal, ADC Activities

The year started with a mix of river trips, pool and indoor training sessions.

In April the Centre returned to its base at Lakeside to start its outdoor season. This year the Centre has been working out of a series of Portacabins due to the rebuilding of the Lakeside Centre and Storage Unit.

The numbers for the Saturday Club have been low but steady. The casual sessions for groups were well supported between May and July.

During the Centre ran several river trips, also it ran a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition on the River Thames.

The Safety courses run by the Centre have been well attended. Also during the year 3 of the coaches took part in the British Canoeing Level 2 Coach Training.

Thanks go out to the Centres Committee, Coaches and Assistants for their help and commitment.

Old Scout Bushcraft - Jim Cook, Manager

For many years now Hampshire Counties HEAT Bushcraft and Survival SAS have resided and worked at Cricket Activity Centre under a very loose relationship.

As of the 7th of October 2015, Heat Bushcraft and Survival were let go from County and the section was disbanded, at the same time Sharon Ross agreed to resurrect the section as part of the Activity Centre and run the section as an Active Support Section known as 'Old Scout Bushcraft' and are set up to provide instruction in outdoor skills.

We have run a number of sessions for all sections of Scouting and guiding within Itchen South as well as outside of the district. There are currently 24 members in the section under Jim Cook who is the manager of the section, Malcolm Harvey Ross is the treasurer and Kim Dale is the section secretary and the section reports to Martin Dale ADC Camp (who is also a member).

A number of the team are also on the maintenance crew of the site and have carried out a number of projects around the site such as: fencing repairs, upgrade of the gas supply, upgrade of the water system, maintenance on the climbing tower, setting up the bushcraft store and new workshop, setting up of the new tomahawk range as well as much more

The future of the section is very bright and there are a number of plans to develop the section further and increase the amount of training for the team as well as what we can offer the district and beyond. The section is actively recruiting new members as we would like to continue to grow and develop and provide continued service to the District.

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