



**The Group Council of the
7th Blackford Edinburgh
(George Heriot's School)
Scout Group.**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2006**

Office Bearers in the Year to 31st March 2006

Group Administrators:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Group Chairman | Joe Anderson* |
| Group Secretary | Lynne Dunsmore* |
| Group Treasurer | Christine Ayton* |

Group Scout Team:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Group Scout Leader | <i>Vacant</i> * |
| Cub Scout Leader | Robert Anderson* |
| Assistant Cub Scout Leader (July 05 – Dec 05) | Mhairi Minion |
| Assistant Cub Scout Leader (to Dec 05) | Ben Guerin |

Group Executive Committee:

**Denotes Ex officio Member of Group Executive Committee*

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nominated Members | Cub Scout Parent | Steve Cranston |
| | Nominee of the Sponsoring Authority | Neil Short |
| Elected Member | Cub Scout Parent | Joanna Paine |
| Co-opted Member | | |
| Right of Attendance: | District Commissioner | Michael Herriott |
| | District Chairman | Edwin Maxwell |



Group Chairman's Report

Joe Anderson

May I start off by just reminding you that the Cubs form part of a Group, and that the structure of this Group would include a Scout Troop and a Beaver Colony, if we had sufficient warranted Scouting staff to take charge of these. As it is, we have only the Cub Pack, and even here, we are reliant on the efforts and enthusiasm of one man, the Cub Leader, with voluntary assistance from interested parents. The year has again been one of success for the Cub Pack, and the Cub Leader will give details in his report. I would just like to point out his success in building up the Pack again, and keeping it going. We are still on the border-line for viability, and really need additional warranted leaders. Our thanks go to the rota of parents who have been helping in the evenings, for without them things would be quite different.

We see big changes coming about in the Scout movement in the near future.

Already we must make preparations for going co-educational, i.e. admitting girls. This is not just a bright idea on the part of Scout Headquarters, but is in compliance with European legislation on equality of the sexes.

Such a change will have repercussions, including staffing and supervision, and may mean changes to some of our formal arrangements; we will have to look, for example, at the Sponsoring Agreement with the School to see if it refers only to boys.

Other changes resulting from recent legislation included completing what is known as Declaration Forms for all those involved with the Pack, and that includes members of the Committee. The members of the Committee completed Module One of the training schedule in respect of this, covering points to be observed when dealing with children and others. In addition, the members of the Group Committee, as trustees, were made Associates of the movement, their subscriptions being paid from Group funds.

The Cub Leader will be detailing his activities later, and the Treasurer will be going over the Accounts, but I would like to point out a few areas of particular achievement.

Fund-raising at the Christmas Fair was highly successful, thanks to the efforts of Committee members, who gave of their time, energy and resources.

One grant which must be mentioned is the sum of £2,200 under the "Awards for All" scheme, which resulted in some valuable and highly useful equipment for the Group.

In addition, as the Scouting movement is now recognised as a Charity, we obtained registration under the appropriate section, and were thus able to reclaim the Income Tax portion of contributions (i.e. the Cub subscriptions). A scrutiny of

the records by the Cub Leader enabled us to track back to the year 2000, and recover tax on almost all subscriptions paid since then. This has resulted in the substantial sum of over £800 being secured for the accounts. Permission from parents past and present had to be obtained, and a statement that they were or are tax-payers. Now that this laborious part of the task has been accomplished, reclaiming of tax on current and future subscriptions will proceed smoothly.

To conclude, may I draw your attention to a significant date; the year 2009 will be the anniversary of the setting up of this Group, which is one of the oldest in Edinburgh. We intend to mark that anniversary in a suitable way.



Group Scout Leader's Report

Robert Anderson

In the absence of a Group Scout Leader, I am providing this report, which looks at the Group's activities over the year, the leader situation, and the work of the Group with future considerations.

In November, we lost the services of Mhairi, who resigned as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader due to family commitments. Mhairi joined the Group in the summer when her two sons enrolled with pack. Previously warranted as an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader with another group in the District, Mhairi's experience and services are missed.

We also had to cancel Ben's warrant as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader who, for reasons of work commitments, had not been able to attend Cub meetings for over 18 months and it was unlikely the situation would change in the future.

We have been fortunate to have the services of three senior pupils, two of whom are former Cub Scouts, to help at pack meetings. They are undertaking the service element of their Duke of Edinburgh Award's and are a valuable asset.

Unfortunately, they are not counted as adult leaders, and with Mhairi's departure, the Pack is left below the adult leadership team required by The Scout Association. This is a serious situation for the Group, which could lead to its closure. The Group Executive and I are working to find new leaders, but it is difficult to attract individuals. In the mean time, a very successful parent's rota has been operating to provide an additional adult presence. However, this is only a short term solution. As a result of only having one leader, it makes the provision of a full programme extremely difficult and certainly the programme offered to the Cubs has deteriorated from what we used to offer.

The Group hosted many District Cub events and activities over the year. Namely the:

- Sports Competition at Goldenacre

- Athletics' badge assessment at Goldenacre.
- Information Technology badge assessment using one of the schools ICT suite's
- Swimmers badge assessment for Stages 1, 2 and 3 in the school pool.

We are grateful to the School Governors for their permission to use the school facilities for these events.

The Pack has also been able to benefit from the use of other School resources, such as Forest lodge, the school minibuses, and trailers. We are grateful to the School for there use in support of the events and activities undertaken by the Pack.

Our collection of tokens in the spring for the *Kingsmill Kit for Clubs* scheme earned the Group 4 foam sleeping mats and 9 emergency whistles. Thanks to all the Parents who collected tokens for the Group.

Behind the scenes, the Group is currently working on changes being made by The Scout Association which will affect the Group. Principally, that on the 1st January 2007, the Group is required to be co-educational. Work is ongoing with the Group's sponsoring authority, George Heriot's School, to make amendments to the necessary agreements. The Group Executive Committee has also decided that the Pack will become co-educational, rather than opening a second Pack (which would have to be co-educational, under The Scout Association Rules), or merge with another Group.

We are also mindful that the Group's centennial anniversary will occur in 2009 and are starting to make plans to appropriately commemorate the occasion.



Cub Scout Section Report

Robert Anderson

This section of the report covers the work done by the Cub Pack.

This session has seen another full and active year of events and activities enjoyed by Cubs in the Pack.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was the Cub Camps. As a pack, we went to the School cottage at Forest Lodge last November. Cubs completed many requirements of the Creative Challenge Award. Cubs also attended the District Cub Camp at Auchengillan last August. These Cubs gained their First Aid badge, Outdoor Challenge Award and many also achieved a Nights Away badge.

Throughout the year, we participated in the District Competitions with notable success.

- 2nd place at the Sports Competition in May 2005 at George Heriot's Sports Ground, Goldenacre.

- 1st place ('A' team) and 2nd place ('B' team) at the 5-a-side football competition in November 2005 at the Jack Kane Centre.
- 1st place at the Swimming Competition in February 2005 at Loanhead Leisure Centre.
- We retained the runner's up trophy by default for the Cub Super Skills Competition. This event was cancelled by the District because of a lack of teams from other Packs.

We also participated in District badge assessment evenings where Cubs gained their:

- Athletics badge.
- Swimmers Stage 1 badge.
- Swimmers Stage 3 badge.
- Information Technology Stage 1 badge.

One Cub also attended EuroJam, the European Scout Jamboree, which was an international scout camp organised by the European Region of the World Scout Committee. EuroJam was held at Hylands Park, Chelmsford last summer, and although still a Cub, he was in the 6 month transitional age range and attended the event as Scout. With 10,000 participants and the only Young Person from the District to take the opportunity, we are proud of his commitment and enthusiasm.

With the return of the Parents Association Christmas Fair in December, the Pack provided its usual stall of games for children to play. Managed by the Cubs themselves, the money raised went towards the cost of the cinema trip the following week to see *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Cubs also made bird boxes at our Pack holiday at Forest Lodge, which were then sold on by the Group Executive at its own stall at the PA Christmas Fair.

Looking ahead into 2006, the Cub Scout section celebrates our 90th Birthday. Cubs will be attending the Big Birthday Bash camp, a national Cub Camp at Fordell Firs. Although the birthday celebrations are to be a low key affair, we will celebrate as a Section with a District Picnic after the summer and plans are being made for an Area Cub event towards the close of the year at Murrayfield stadium.

Membership reached an all time low about the summer, but after a very successful recruitment campaign in August, saw the numbers double and many pupil's registering for a place on their eighth birthday in the future. This leaves the Pack sustainable for a numbers of years, if we can attract new leaders.

Finally, my thanks go to the Young Leaders, the Group Executive Committee and you, the parents, for your continuing interest and support that has been so willing given.

Group Census – January 2005

Lynne Dunsmore

| BEAVERS | | CUBS | | SCOUTS | | LEADERS | | ASSISTANTS | | YOUNG LEADERS ¹ | | OTHERS ² | | GROUP TOTALS |
|---------|----|------|----|--------|----|---------|----|------------|----|----------------------------|----|---------------------|---|--------------|
| m | f | m | f | m | f | m | f | m | f | m | f | m | f | |
| -- | -- | 19 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | -- | 2 | 3 | 28 |

Treasurer's Report

Christine Ayton

The year saw increased levels of both income and expenditure, resulting in a much improved financial situation, although we still have some way to go to our target of a reserve of around £1,500.

Subscriptions income rose significantly, mainly as a result of an increase in our membership rate, introduced to keep pace with the increased National subscription paid by the Group. As in 2004-2005, the year's greatest expenditure was on the November camp at Forest Lodge, though this also generated useful income. Expenditure was greater on equipment, badges and uniform this year, reflecting a healthy turnover in Pack membership and a number of national-level events and anniversaries, but this was more than offset by pleasing receipts from the Group's stalls at the School Christmas Fair.

The Group operates three bank accounts, designated Pack, Group and Troop, though most financial transactions continue to be handled through the Pack account, enabling the Cub Scout Leader to manage the general week by week expenditure. The Group account is used less, mainly for the Executive Committee payments (e.g. subscriptions). The Troop account remains effectively dormant.

In the year ahead, we do not expect to have the fundraising potential of another School Christmas Fair. But funds have already been strengthened with the receipt on April 2006 of over £930 of Gift Aid, as a tax rebate on subscriptions dating back to April 2000. A grant of over £2,000 under the Awards for All scheme was awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund in the same month. This is a Restricted Fund and will be entirely spent on the purchase of much needed storage equipment, as specified in the application.

¹ Young Leaders are also members of the Young Leaders Explorer Scout Unit. They are not members of The Scout Association and not do pay the membership subscription. They are not included in the Group's Census return.

² Committee members are associate members of The Scout Association and the Group pays their membership subscription.

Accounts

Christine Ayton

RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2006

| <u>RECEIPTS</u> | <u>31/03/06</u> | <u>31/03/05</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Membership subscriptions | £ 1,050.00 | £ 570.00 |
| Bank interest | £ 5.16 | £ 6.79 |
| Camp receipts | £ 575.00 | £ 440.00 |
| Fundraising (Xmas Fair) | £ 426.54 | £ 0.00 |
| Total Receipts for the year end | £ 2,056.70 | £ 1,016.79 |
| <u>PAYMENTS</u> | | |
| Membership subscriptions | £ 399.00 | £ 373.35 |
| Camp expenses | £ 379.00 | £ 334.75 |
| Excursions; District/Area/National events | £ 230.85 | £ 130.80 |
| Stationery, postage etc | £ 88.98 | £ 63.00 |
| Badges and uniforms | £ 225.03 | £ 122.39 |
| Equipment | £ 98.93 | £ 64.55 |
| Sundry expenses | £ 230.79 | £ 216.30 |
| Total Payments for the Year | £ 1,652.58 | £ 1,305.14 |
| Profit/(Loss) for Year | £ 404.12 | £ (288.35) |
| 31/3/05 Bank Account Balance | £ 611.30 | |
| Plus Excess Receipts over Payments | £ 404.12 | |
| 31/3/06 Bank Account Balance | £ 1,015.42 | |

A full copy of the accounts is available for inspection on demand.

FUNDS

| GENERAL FUNDS | Balance at 1st April 05 | Receipts | Payments | Balance at 31st March 06 |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Pack Account | £ 387.65 | £ 1,750.44 | £ (1,526.08) | £ 612.01 |
| Group Account | £ 149.27 | £ 315.01 | £ (136.00) | £ 328.88 |
| Troop Account | £ 73.78 | £ 0.75 | £ 0.00 | £ 74.53 |
| Total | £ 611.30 | £ 2,066.20 | £ (1,622.08) | £ 1,015.42 |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Group Account | Main account for Group expenses. |
| Pack Account | To support the work of the Cub Pack |
| Troop Account | To support the work of the Scout Troop |

NOTES



Annual Report of the Group Council for the
7th Blackford Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group, 2006