

centenary of
scouting2007



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

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2007**

Office Bearers in the Year to 31st March 2007

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 (From Sept 06)	Lucy Pilkington
Section Assistant (From Jan 07)	Catherine Paton

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
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Co-opted Member

None

Right of Attendance:

District Commissioner	Michael Herriott
District Chairman	



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.

Leadership of the Cub Pack has improved, but still remains an area of concern. In September, we gained the services of Lucy as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Lucy joined us after arriving in Edinburgh at the start of her studies. Previously, she was youth member and a Young Leader with her Pack at home. Prior to Lucy's arrival, the Pack had to operate a parents rota to ensure a sufficient adult ratio, required by The Scout Association, was maintained at Pack Meetings. While far from satisfactory in terms of managing a successful and vibrant Cub Pack, I am grateful to all Parents who so readily and willing responded to the rota and did their bit.

With the arrival of Lucy, and the launch of a new information brochure for Cub parents from Scout Headquarters, we altered the focus for parental help and appealed for assistance in a number of areas. Several parents responded and have now completed the necessary disclosure checks. They undertake roles such as sectional helpers, minibus drivers, camp catering. Others have assisted, when the need arose, to help pitch and strike tents at cub camps.

We have been fortunate to have the services of four 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.

The Group Executive continues to work to find new leaders, but it is difficult to attract individuals.

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

- Cub Sports Competition at Goldenacre
- Cub Athlete badge assessment at Goldenacre.
- Cub Swimmers badge assessment for Stages 1 and 2 in the school pool.
- The Annual General Meeting of Blackford District Scout Council.
- The District's Module 1 training course for new adult leaders in the District.

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

The Pack has also continued 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 allowing there use in support of the events and activities undertaken by the Pack.

On the 1st January 2007, the Group went co-educational, as required under rule changes of The Scout Association.

A website for the Group was launched this year. The address is www.7blackford.btik.com and, as time goes on, the site is being developed with details of the Group, the Pack, a calendar, a news page, documents store, and an enquiry form. The site is provided by the Community Website Service, a scheme operated by BT and Recipero Limited, allowing registered UK charities, volunteer led groups to build and maintain their own website free of charge.

We are also mindful that the Group's centennial anniversary will occur in 2009.

Group Census – January 2007

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	1	--	1	4 ¹	--	1	2	25 (29)

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.



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. We moved from the 90th Birthday year of the Cub Scout section during 2006 into the Centennial year of the Scout Movement during 2007 and several programme items reflected these anniversaries.

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

- 2nd place at the Sports Competition in May 2006 at George Heriot's Sports Ground, Goldenacre.
- 1st place at the Swimming Competition in February 2007 at Loanhead Leisure Centre.
- 1st place at the 5-a-side football competition in February 2007 at the Craggs Sports Centre.
- 4th Place at the Edinburgh Area Cub Scouts 7-a-side football competition in March 2007 at Meadowbank Stadium.

Cub also participated in several anniversary events:

- Parents and Cubs attended the Bonaly Bash (75th Birthday Event for Bonaly Scout Centre, Edinburgh Scout Area own scout campsite) in June 2006, which witnessed members of all ages, their families and supporters of Scouting enjoying a day of fete style activities.
- One Cub from the pack appeared in the Scout Gang Show at the Kings Theatre in November 2006. This was Edinburgh's Gang Show 75th anniversary and they had a particular emphasis on the Cub section.
- The Pack joined over 500 Cub Scouts from all over Edinburgh at the Area's recognition event for the Cub Section's 90th Birthday at Murrayfield Stadium in December 2006. The Pack was photographed beside the Calcutta Cup, ran up the player's tunnel and stood at the pitch side and had a tour of the stadium. Two Cubs from the Pack who had completed their Chief Scouts Silver award, the highest award in the section, were re-presented with special certificates by the Area Scout Commissioner, recognising that they had earned the award in the sections 90th birthday year.
- The Cubs ran games as part of the Group's stall at the George Heriot's School Parents Association Christmas fayre to help raised funds for the Group.
- Several Cubs from the Pack, along with Cubs from the 28th Pack, represented Edinburgh's Cub Section at the Scottish Scouting's Founders Day Service at Dunfermline Abbey in February 2007. This was the first national event in 2007 making the centennial anniversary of the Scout Movement. It is particularly pleasing to note that our cubs responded to a request to provide extra Cubs, received just 24 hours before the event.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was the Cub Camps. We joined over 500 Cubs Scouts from all over Scotland at the Big Birthday Bash at our national campsite at Fordell Firs in September 2006. This was another event to mark the Cubs 90th Birthday. As a pack, we had our annual pack holiday to the School cottage at Forest Lodge last November. Cubs completed many requirements for the Creative and Outdoor Challenges, as well had making bird feeders for sale at the Christmas fayre. I am grateful to Karen and Craig Watson would undertook the task of organising and providing the catering for the Cubs.

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

- Athlete badge.
- Swimmers Stage 1 badge.
- Swimmers Stage 2 badge.

And as a pack we visited the Edinburgh Central Mosque in January 2007 which allowed the Cubs to gain their World Faiths Badge.

Other items in the programme found the Cubs taking part in the Join-In-Centenary programme, a weekly programme resource for leaders to use during 2007. By participating in this programme, Cubs will earn one of four special awards for 2007, the Join-in-Centenary award.

Responding to a challenge issued by Edinburgh Scouting for Groups and Sections to collectively compete 100 community service projects during 2007, we issued the Heriot's Cub Centennial Challenge, where during the Easter holiday, the cubs were challenged to individually raise £20.07 and collectively complete 100 hours of good turns.

Looking ahead into 2007, we continue with the centenary celebrations, with an Area Camp in May, Scouting Sunrise on the 1st August at 8.00am at George Heriot's School, as well as other opportunities to camp and meet Cubs from other packs.

Membership of the Pack has remained reasonably constant during the year, floating around the 20 mark. Many pupils have also registered 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 to Lucy and Catherine Paton, who has lately been assisting as a Section Assistant and attending both at special events and pack evening, for their support and help. Also to the Young Leaders, the Group Executive Committee and you, the parents, for your continuing interest and support that has been so willing given. Although the events do not fall within this reporting period, I could not finish without recognising and mentioning a very special thanks to all those parents (and coerced others) who turned to and helped load and unload the van, pitch and strike tents and assist at the camps this spring.



Annual Report of the Group Council of the
7th Blackford Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group, 2007