



Annual General Meeting 2009

SMOKE SIGNALS

The Newsletter of 2nd Farnborough Scout Group



“The Chairman’s words”

Well, to start with, a welcome to 2nd Farnborough AGM in The Blackwater Valley District. In my first year as Chairman it has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers and leaders. Their enthusiasm and commitment was summed up for me in the time, effort and dedication they put in with a group of Cubs during the recent George Duval event, and they (and the children) thoroughly deserved their Second Place (even if some of us were biased and thought they deserved to win!) Last year at the AGM I managed to get a number of parents to volunteer to help out, but unfortunately I never got this initial enthusiasm focussed on delivering what we need. I am sure that during the next 12 months each family could help identify ideas for fundraising and support those activities which we run, or find a couple of hours one evening to spend with the children at the hut or an event, or help out at the football tea-stall at Hawley on a Saturday morning, or carry our repairs at the hall.

The Group is not financially well off and urgent work is needed on the hut roof - Without raising of additional funds in the next year we will struggle to run the Group in the way in which we think you want it to be run. Hopefully at the AGM we can identify a small group of enthusiasts (and perhaps a Leader for that group) who can help us continue to provide a scouting environment which the children appear to enjoy. Finally, thank you for your support of the group over the past 12 months, and I hope that the children enjoy the Scouting challenges ahead of them over the coming months and years.



Paul Spicer (Chairman)



Fundraising at a Football tournament

We're on the web!

Over the last few months we have been working on updating the 2nd Farnborough website. This will be used for posted the latest news about 2nd Farnborough and the sections including letters, events with dates, pictures and anything else we can think of.

So if you misplace a letter or anything else check the website!



"Skip's Bits" Annual Review 2009

Be Prepared For the Future in Scouting at 2nd Farnborough

The Census 2009. We are holding our own in numbers, this year we still have 2 girl Scouts, and 1 girl Scout with the Cubs. It's always good to see new faces in Scouting, so don't forget to tell anyone who might be interested that we are welcoming both boys and girls to our group, and to come along and check out what we have to offer. Unfortunately three scouts left us recently as they are now over 15, and have gone into the District Explorer unit. However we will be getting new recruits into **Beavers** and **Cubs** soon and 5 Cubs have moved up into **Scouts**. It has been great for me to be at most of the investitures of all the new Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts.

At this stage I would like to welcome one new leader, **Daniel West**, who started off his Scouting with 2nd Farnborough as a Beaver Scout at the age of 6 years old, and has been with 2nd Farnborough for 12 years. We welcome Dan as a new leader with the Scouts. He is going through the CRB approval at this stage. So a very big welcome Dan, and thank you for your support to me and 2nd Farnborough, now and in the future. Thanks also to **Bernie Peters**, Assistant Scout leader, for another year with us.



We started off our very busy year with the Sleepover at our Scout hut, with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, not forgetting the Explorers! This was a **world record attempt** for the **largest 'sleep over' ever** on 14th June 2008, with as many youth groups as possible sleeping under canvas on the same night, so well done to us all for taking part in this record breaking event.

The Troop had a great summer camp last year at the **Tolmers Activity Centre**. I went with 8 Scouts, 2 Explorers, and two helpers; **Bernie** and my wife **Anne**, who covered as female staff for our girl Scouts (many thanks to them for coming). Among the activities available were: abseiling, canoeing, hiking, journalism, laser clay pigeon shooting, quad bikes, football, volleyball, camp fires, sing songs, and the opportunity to meet over 800 scouts from around England. **Tolmers** has been incredibly popular with everybody, and this year we are returning with 6 Scouts and two Explorers and two new young leaders/ helpers. We are going to try to have an even better time.

The Scouts have been to many of the District's events, such as the **Swimming Gala**. We also went to the open day at DHQ, where we enjoyed such activities as the climbing tower, archery, indoor caving, go-carts, first aid courses and pioneering. As always we ended things with a bar-b-q and camp fire. There was no **Sports Day** last year. Back at the hut we have been having 'sleep over's', games nights, disco parties, as well as the fun of staging the AGM entertainment that you are watching tonight. So yes! We have all been having a fun vfilled year.



St George's Day Parade was held at the **Aldershot stadium** and had a new theme this year, all had a good time and enjoyed it, shame about the sound we could not hear most of it but had a great turn out from all the lads and lasses. So you can all pat yourselves on the back and be proud of what you have achieved.



St George's Day Parade 2009

Thanks to all my leaders, helpers and parents, for their help within the group, in particular **Steve** (Sycamore), **Marten** (Oak), **Graham** (Bagheera), **Bernie** with Scouts, **Wendy** for helping out with the Scouts and tuck shop. **Wendy** has been unable to help for the past 8 weeks, due to resting after a spell in hospital. We all wish **Wendy** a full recovery and hope for her to be back with us soon. A big thank you to **Sharon Hovey** (Conifer), who has completed 17 years as our Beaver helper, and has worked very hard keeping the Colony and the Cub pack running, with myself and all the other leaders/ helpers, after losing our three cub leaders in August last year. With all of your efforts and hard work, that's what makes **2nd Farnborough** what it is today, GREAT!! Thanks must also go to Beaver and Cub parents **Emer Newell**, **Clare Spicer**, **Tracy** and **Graham Pullen** for giving so much time and help, and for making Wednesdays so much more fun for all of us. A big thank you to the Young Leaders/Explorer Scouts, **Dan**, **Matthew**, **Mitchell** and **Thomas**! Thanks also to **Wendy Rosser** as our Group Secretary, for her 1st year with us looking after the minutes. My thanks go to **Sheila Goldie**, our Group Treasurer, and all on the Group Executive Committee, **Marianne Bird**, **Sam Powell**, and **Clive Norris** for acting as our group Auditor. Also big thanks to the **DC Janet Lister**, and the Scouting Head Quarters with the entire District team for all of their help.



Thank you to our new Chairman, **Paul Spicer**, for all the effort, enthusiasm and time he has given us in his first year at 2nd Farnborough.

We are still looking for more help on the **Executive Committee**, parents are always welcome and their participation in Scouting is always appreciated, whether it is hands on or at committee level. We welcome any talents that can make Scouting a richer experience for your children and an enjoyable social experience for us.

We need your help in fund raising to keep us going all year through. We use 'subs' for payments to cover our insurances and utility bills only. We need so much more for running costs to each section, and to make urgent repairs especially to our own Head Quarters. So if you can think of any imaginative ways of helping, please come and talk to myself, Skip, or Paul, our Chairman.

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"Skip's Bits" Continued...

Finally, a thank you to you, the **parents**, for coming to our **Annual Review**, so you can see just what your lads and lasses have achieved this year. We hope that you have an enjoyable evening, and as much fun as we have.

Skipper Allan
Group Scout Leader 2009



"Cubs Howl" Annual Review 2009

As I was not the Leader from April to September I will do my best to report the activities between these dates.

The first activity after the last Review was a very successful weekend camp held at Runways End. 9 Boys participated in Camping, camp cooking, canoeing, shooting, obstacle course and wide games. 10 Beavers joined the Cubs on the Saturday for games of rounder's and football followed by team games and quizzes. After tea the Cubs and Beavers joined a Brownie pack around the campfire for campfire songs before the Beavers headed off home having had a great time. Everyone had a great time and the Cubs were able to complete all the criteria to gain their Camper Activity Badge.

In June the whole group joined together at the hut for the Guinness World Record Giant Sleepover. On the Saturday afternoon we all went over the fields to play rounders and football. After tea we all settled down to watch "Meet The Robinsons" with drinks and popcorn and finished off the evening with hot chocolate and biscuits. After breakfast we made Fathers Day cards and presents before heading off home having broken the record. 5 of the Cubs entered the District Arrowhead competition, which tested their scouting skills to the limit and all the boys worked really hard.



To end the term the Cubs challenged the parents to a rounder's match on the field, everyone had a good time I don't know the score but I'm sure the Cubs won.

The very last event of the term was a visit to St Michaels Abbey in Farnborough, 5 Cubs and some parents joined together for the tour. Afterwards the group hiked to King George V Playing fields for a picnic and games afternoon.

During August Akela, Bagheera and Chill decided not to continue with 2nd Farnborough. There was not enough time to find a new Leader before the term started and the only other option was to close the pack. I agreed to hold the fort and with the help of Sycamore, Oak and Skip we have managed to keep the pack running as normal. The only change was the night from Tuesdays to Wednesdays.

The first event of the term was the District Campfire which was also attended by The Mayor of Rushmoor on his birthday no less he was very impressed by the turnout and the singing especially Happy Birthday. One of the events that had been arranged for some time was a visit to Farnborough Police Station. The 12 boys that attended were given a tour of the building and vehicles, we were shown, police and PCSO uniforms and gadgets and also told about their differing powers. We also learnt about road, personal and internet safety and came away with safety stickers and balloons. The boys really enjoyed trying on the uniforms.

In October the Cubs joined with our Beavers and those from 1st Aldershot for an evening of activities at Runways End. Our Cubs spent the evening tracking and caving and at the end we all joined together for a giant wide game. Also in October Spencer and George attended the night hike at Hannams Copse along with

Sycamore, the boys were able to complete all the tasks so were rewarded with hot soup at the finish. On Bonfire night we made our own guys but before we could complete the tradition Skip taught us how to build and light a fire. One of the guys was built so well that we over ran our time waiting for it to burn.

Also in November the District Swimming Gala was held this year we were able to field a full team, all the Cubs swam really well and there were some exciting races we made all the finals and were so close to being placed in several of them. Well done Callum, James, Spencer, John, Louisa, George, Alex and Oliver for competing and gaining their Swimmers Activity Badge Also this month our 3 newest Cubs represented us at the District indoor Games Competition it was very close with only 3 points difference between the top and us in 6th place well done boys. In November we welcomed Bagheera to the team of Leaders he is now undertaking his basic training so he can be fully integrated by September. Also this month we welcomed our only girl Cub to the pack for some time, lets hope she is the first of many.

George and Nick represented the pack at The District Carol Service in December George did the reading and Nick had a part in the sketch. Unfortunately this event was not

well supported by the groups in the district, we did attend but I was disappointed with our numbers. The now Annual Chief Scout Award Certificate evening was also held in December, George N, and Nick were amongst the 103 recipients who received their certificates from Gerald Howath MP. Ryan John and Connor were unable to attend

so were presented with their certificates in January. Every December the group holds a Christmas Fayre and Raffle. Each section has their own stalls to raise funds for their parties. This year the Beavers and Cubs joined forces and put on 4 stalls. All the stalls were very popular and we made enough money for a great party. This was a joint party with the Beavers at Lazer run. Each person had 3 games, even the leaders had a go I don't know who had the best time the Bys/girl or the Leaders fair to say everyone had a great time.

January brought the preparations and auditions for the George Duval and Dave Jones singing and miming Competitions. 7 boys made props, designed costumes and attended 8 weeks of rehearsals up to 3 times a week in order to be ready for the competition. Tonight you will see a scaled down version of our performance. Also in January we did find time to celebrate Chinese New Year and enter the District Chess Competition. In February we entered the District Mastermind Competition the team found this the most challenging of all the competitions so far so we are proud that they tried their best.

March was a very busy month firstly we had a joint visit with the



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"Cubs Howl" Continued...

Beavers to Rushmoor Fire Station. The Cubs were working towards their home safety and personal safety badges so learnt about emergency evacuation plans, fire prevention and what to do when fire breaks out. We were also shown all the equipment on the vehicles and to end the evening the Cubs were allowed to fire the hoses at one of the fire fighters who were hiding in the tower. Great fun



Our second event in March was the District Football Competition at George V Playing Fields. 8 teams entered so there were 2 pools of 4. We were pool A and won the group with 2 wins and a draw. We played 7th Farnborough the eventual winners in the semi final and lost 3-1. For 3rd place play off we came up against 10th Farnborough who we had previously played and drawn 1-1. It was a very good game and we came out winners by 5-3 to take 3rd place behind 7th and 5th Farnborough. Our 1st placing in 3 years. Well done to George M John, Oliver, Spencer, Nick, Alex, George N and William for their great performance.

Our third event in March was The George Duval / Dave Jones Competition. The team had found the singing very challenging and when Jordan had to pullout through injury the task was even harder but on the day they did their best and we were very proud. The rehearsals for the miming had gone much better. The performance went very well but due to the running order we were unable to judge how well we had done. When the results were read out and we were placed 2nd just 1 point behind the winners we were thrilled for the boys as they had worked so hard and in doing so had gained their entertainers badges. Congratulations



to Louisa, James, William, Aaron, George N and Nick. Also thanks to Emer, Claire, Tracey, Lisa and Marten for all their help it was a real team effort.

I said March was a busy month. Also during this month the Cubs went on a joint visit to Alpine Snow sports with the Beavers. The Beavers went donutting joined by a few Cubs and the rest tried skiing. Most of the boys found this really challenging there was certainly a lot of falling over. Sycamore made it look so easy but the boys soon found out it was not. Most of them after learning the basics did manage a few metres down the slope. Despite not making as much progress as they thought the Cubs did have a good time. The last week of term Bagheera arranged to bring down a private ambulance. The Cubs were able to explore inside and ask questions about the equipment and what it is used for, as part of their 1st aid badge which they have been learning about over the last term. The last event this Year was the alternative St Georges Day Parade at Aldershot Military Stadium. We were very pleased that the group had almost 100% turn out. The flags were paraded and everyone renewed their promise as we usually do but instead of hymns we sang campfire songs. It was just a shame that the sound system wasn't powerful enough so we missed quite a lot of what was being said.

We have purposely kept the numbers down to a manageable 16 this year as all the Leaders are involved with both Cubs and Beavers. We now have a waiting list for the first time in years it seems that news of our success is spreading. We have watched 8 boys leap across to Scouts and seen an equal number swim up from Beavers. All the Cubs work hard to gain their badges and this year each one has gained at least 2 challenge badges and 4 activity badges, with an impressive 5 boys gaining the highest accolade The Chief Scouts Silver Award. Congratulations to Connor, Alex, John, George M and Spencer on achieving this award, which is no mean feat.

This year we will be falling in line with the Scouts and will be presenting The Cub of the Year Award. This is not the person who has gained the most badges although this is a factor, along with attendance, the smartest cub, participation in activities and representing the Pack all count towards the points. The Cub with the highest number of points will receive this Award tonight.

Now for the thanks you's, the running of the pack has been a joint venture I as Acting leader could not hold the meetings without the weekly support of Sycamore Oak and Emer without them 2nd Farnborough Cubs would not exist, thanks again. Thanks also goes to Bagheera, for his support since joining us and off course to Skip. I would also like to thank all the parents have helped with transport, fundraising, donations, and at weekly meetings without all your contributions 2nd Farnborough Cubs would not run as smoothly as it does, thanks again.



Conifer

"The Beavers log" Annual Review 2009

The first activity after the last Review was a visit to Farnborough Police Station. The Beavers spent time in the cells, had their fingerprints taken, dressed up in different uniforms, tried out the riot gear, explored the vehicles and were checked out by the police dogs and handlers. The Policeman and PCSO made the visit very enjoyable and I think some of the boys may be thinking of being policemen when they are older.

Next was a very successful day visit to the Cub weekend camp held at Runways End. 10 Boys participated in the activities, which started with a gigantic game of rounders followed by team word games. After



tea of Burgers and sausages the Cubs went off to gather wood for the campfire and we were shown how to put up a small tent. The Beavers then went on tour of the camp site as this was the first time some of the Beavers had been to Runways End. There was a short time left so a game of football filled the gap before we joined the Cubs and Brownies for the last hour of the campfire.

The Beavers and Leaders had a great time and it has given the Beavers a taste of what to expect when they join the Cubs

In June the whole group joined together at the hut for the Guinness World Record Giant Sleepover. This was very exciting for the Beavers as not only was it the first time away from home for some but it was

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"The Beavers Log" Continued...

with the rest of the group, which is very unusual. On the Saturday afternoon we all went over the fields to play rounders and football. After tea we all settled down to watch "Meet the Robinsons" with drinks and popcorn and finished off the evening with hot chocolate and biscuits. The Cubs and Beavers slept inside with the Scouts and Explorers outside in tents. For the Beavers we put up a pretend tent so they felt like they were camping. As they were all very excited and it took a few hours for them all to go off to sleep but they eventually did but some of them looked like they needed matchsticks in the morning. After breakfast of cereal, eggs, bacon, sausages and beans we made Fathers Day cards and presents and played team games before heading off home having broken the record.



In July we tried to get outside as much as possible but the weather was not always favourable so we had to delay the explore badge till the autumn. We did manage to celebrate American Independence Day indoors; we ate hot dogs, muffins and had milkshake to drink. The boys learnt about American traditions, currency, the flag and national flowers as part of their Friendship Challenge. Part of the Beaver programme Colonies need to team up each another for the evening. We spent an evening at Runways End with 1st Aldershot participating in caving and archery. For many of the boys it was the first time they had experienced these activities we ended the evening with hot dogs and a drink. On the last day of term a Water activities evening was held, it didn't really matter what the weather doing as we were going to get wet anyway was like it turned out to be hot and sunny. The evening started with team games like shooting the bottles, bucket relay, waterbombs and finished with a giant water fight. This year I wasn't the only adult target Oak and Sycamore got just as wet as I did there was lots of cheating going on and that made it even more enjoyable.

September brought better weather so we were able to go on our Exploration. We decided to walk along Cove Brook answering a questionnaire, collecting interesting objects and tidying the environment by picking up any litter we found. On our return there were lots of different objects to discuss including stones, leaves, sticks and flowers. All the questionnaires were completed correctly enabling the boys to earn their Explore Activity Badge.

In October the Cubs joined with our Beavers and those from 1st Aldershot for an evening of activities at Runways End. Our Cubs spent the evening tracking and caving the Beavers were on the obstacle course, pedal carts and climbing wall. At the end we all joined together for a giant wide game and some of the boys were able to complete the adventure activity badge. On Bonfire night we made our very own guys, Skip taught us how to build and light a fire so we were then able to go outside and watch them burn. During the term The Beavers also gained the Experiment, Hobbies and 1st Aid badges.

In November The Beavers visited Paultons Park with other Colonies in our District and in Hampshire. The Beavers were able to go on the rides and see the attractions. They were also able to visit Father Christmas who had arranged for everyone to receive a very nice early Christmas Present. This was Sycamore's first trip in charge and he was very pleased that the boys enjoyed themselves and were well behaved.

Every December the group holds a Christmas Fayre and Raffle. This year the Beavers and Cubs joined forces and the Beavers made their tradition craft. All 4 stalls were very popular and we made enough money for a great party. This was a joint party with the Cubs at Laser run. The Cubs and Beavers and Leaders were split into 3 mixed teams with each having at least 3 games. The last game was a Leaders v Cubs/Beavers this game was very noisy it wasn't the Cubs/Beavers being noisy it was Sycamore. During the term the boys gained the Experiment, Hobbies and 1st Aid badges.

The Spring terms theme was Safety and for several weeks we spent time learning the water safety code, we chose a good week for this as it was the week when all the ponds were frozen. The boys also had to learn the green cross code, so we took them out onto the estate to test them out, now everyone should be able to cross the road safely. Other parts of the badge included stranger danger and dangers at home.

March was a very busy month firstly we had a joint visit with the Cubs to Rushmoor Fire Station. The Beavers were working towards their Safety badge so learnt about dangers in the home, the importance of a working smoke detector and equipment carried on the vehicles. We ended the evening with the Beavers firing the hoses up into the towers where one of fire fighters was hiding. I think this and sitting in the fire engine were the 2 things the boys enjoyed most. Also in March The Beavers and Cubs went on a Joint visit to Alpine Ski Centre, The Beavers and a few Cubs did donutting whilst the Cubs went skiing. The track was quite fast as guess what it had been raining most of the day but luckily it cleared up in the evening. All the Beavers went down at least 10 times and as you have to walk up, most of them were a little jaded at the end when we all met up for drinks and biscuits in the tea hut. I bet they all slept well after having a really enjoyable evening.

The last week of term Bagheera from Cubs arranged to bring down a private ambulance. The Beavers were able to go inside and see the different equipment that has to be carried. They were very interested in



the stretcher, as it could be operated by single person, and the vehicle automatically lowered in order to get it off safely. They asked the Technicians lots of questions as part of their friendship Challenge where they have to talk to people who work in the community.

A District Beaver Fun Day was held during the Easter holidays. 10 Beavers attended and participated in the obstacle course, biscuit decorating, finger painting, blind trail and learnt about fair-trade products to name a few. Luckily the weather was kind enabling all the Beavers in the district to join in all the events laid on. I was not able to attend as I had been told by Sycamore that all the boys had a good time.

The last event this Year was the alternative St Georges Day Parade at Aldershot Military Stadium. Only 4 Beavers were unable to attend and the Cubs and Scouts had almost 100% turnout. Instead of a church service with hymns we sang campfire songs and the Explorers carried lanterns. The only thing was the sound system was not big enough to cope so we missed most of what was being said.

During the past year the colony has had a healthy waiting list and we have been able to take new boys at 5 years 9 months. We have kept the colony small as it is more manageable with the leaders covering both Cubs and Beavers at the moment. Again over the past year we have had a constant stream of boys who have moved on to join our Cub Pack. The whole colony works hard to earn their badges and have been very successful with 4 boys earning the highest Award - The Chief Scouts Bronze Award. We will be presenting some tonight and have more who hope to complete very soon. Every Beaver in our colony has gained at least 2 Challenge Awards and 4 proficiency badges and tonight after our show some of the boys will be presented with the Creative Proficiency badge. Along with the Cubs and Scouts we will be presenting a Beaver of the Year Award tonight. This has been worked out on a points system since the last review, mainly through attendance and badges gained as we were unable to at-

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"The Beavers Log" Continued...

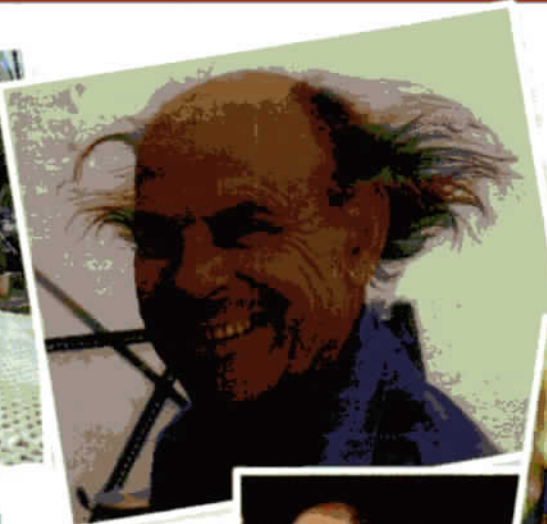
tend the Swimming Gala and Sports Day was cancelled.

I am glad to say that over the past year Sycamore has been undertaking his training and I have gradually I have been taking more of a back seat on meeting nights. In September I hope to revert to my role of helper and hand over the reigns completely as I will still be involved with the Cub pack. Hopefully Oaks paperwork will be complete soon so he will be able to start his training.

Finally we would like to thank our very willing band of helpers and parents who have supported us over the past year, at meetings, outings and events. Without your help the colony would not have been able to function so smoothly and take part in all the activities. Big Thank you's to Oak, Skip, Lisa and Marcus for their efforts.

Conifer & Sycamore

The Gallery 09



Who is this?



At SMOKE SIGNALS we always welcome any input of features that you may feel will add to our publication. Please contact us if you wish to contribute.

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