

# Minutes of the executive committee meeting

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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2015

Present: Iwan, Keith, Richard (chair), Mike, Peter, Cheryl, Gary, Alex, Kathy, Debra, Tom, Paul, Matthew and Ann. Apologies: Carl and Julia

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted

## Matters arising

Compass online database was taken down in February 2015 because it was not secure enough. A workaround is being worked up but there is no access to any CRB records or any of the earned badges

Joining packs; we discussed the provision of uniform and handbook for a set joining fee. However, past experience of issuing a scout pocketbook showed this book was soon out of use and not brought along. Also a joining pack does not promote reuse of second hand uniforms or hand-me-downs. The new booklets would cost £4 for beavers and £6 for cubs. Buying these in order would cost the group about £800. We came to a decision to buy the books for existing cub- and beaver sections and to resell them at a discounted price of £3 (beavers) and £4 (cubs) respectively. Scouts and Explorers will need to access badge requirements on the internet.

## Correspondence

We have had a request from the Round Table to help out at fireworks night. There will be free entrance to all scouts and explorers (in uniform) as long as they help to clear the field after the fireworks. In return a donation will be made to the group. We made a decision to volunteer scouts and explorers for Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>.

## New programme introduction

The new badge program has now been implemented across the group. There is information in the new booklets and on the Scouts Internet page. Old badges can stay on the uniform.

## Leader training

We identify that every leader must complete the first three mandatory training modules (online). Further courses are optional and detailed on the scouts' website. Every leader must also complete a first responder first aid course. We currently cannot check who holds what training certificates and we neither is the GSL able to validate training. Recorded action is for the secretary to e-mail scouts headquarters to get a printout of the current achievements out of the Compass database. Training requirements will be discussed further at the next leaders meeting.

## Facilities

At the campsite the kitchen has now been moved; thanks to the various folk who have helped out. We had a brief discussion on a possible wood stove. The decision on this remains a definite “no” because of building regulations and insurance cover. Recently a re-enactment group used the campsite over a weekend for a fee of £200.

The GSL is considering use of the former boxing club (now Penparcau community center) on a trial basis between November and December. For the beaver pack and the explorers the hire would be £30 (for three hours)

## Section reports

### *Beavers*

Currently have 21 kids in the beaver pack with another 21 on the waiting list. (Of which 6 are of the right age to join). A recent request for parents to help out yielded nil interest. Parent helpers are needed, especially for outdoor trips to maintain the right ratio. We agreed to continue to use Facebook to request parents' help on incidental occasions... The pack is run by three permanent staff with occasional help from the explorers. We are hopeful that more student helpers could join the group for the season. Beavers recently took part in the safety activity badge and the first aid badge. A beaver fun day is being organised for Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> at Llanerchaeron.

### *Cubs*

There are six cubs on the waiting list (and none on the scout or explorer list). The cubs have just had a cup camp in a mediaeval theme. An international evening is coming up (New-Zealand theme) and also the photographer' badge challenge. This year the cub section will celebrate a 100 years with an area scout camp.

### *Scouts*

The scout section will have their annual scout camp on Saturday the 24th of October. (£12 contribution) They've recently done the astronautics badge, the nature badge and voted to get involved with 1 million hands on the issue of “drinking water”.

### *Explorers*

The explorer section now has a good mix of boys and girls. They are currently planning to do the Duke of Edinburgh bronze scheme with a hike.

## Group Events

We had a discussion regarding an auction night and agreed it would preferable be a type of social evening. Such evening could highlight what scouting is about through presentations, a Holland Jamborette “wash up” and possibly a gang show.

This is professionally booked for the 20th of November. Action: this event will be taken forward by a sub group consisting of DJ, MP, PW, PvV.

## Any other business

This is the last week for the Essex jamboree booking and to put down a £50 deposit to secure booking.

Date for next meeting is Thursday January 14th at 19:30.