



1st Douglas Scout Group

Annual Report

2003

Est. 1909

www.1stdouglas.org.im

Chairman's Report

In presenting my report I thank the parents for their interest and support over the last year. I also thank the members of the Group Committee for their help and council. The Group Committee would welcome parents and friends of the 1st Douglas to join the Group Committee, we need ideas on fund raising, building maintenance for both the main scout hall and the bunkhouse at Baldwin.

When you have a moment, please read the various reports and accounts, they represent the work and achievements of the Group over the past year. The enthusiasm demonstrated by the boys is a credit to the parents and Leaders.

I am pleased to report that the Group is in a sound financial position, but like the Ford Motor Company "It is one of continuing improvement" and that improvement is of course concentrated on the maintenance of the Scout Hall Buildings. The Group Committee have instructed a local contractor to proceed with the updating of the Fire and Safety Precautions along the guidelines set by the Isle of Man Fire Service.

The election of officers to serve on the Group Committee for the next year will, I am pleased to say, remain the same apart from the Treasurer. It is with regret that our Treasurer, Mrs Jan Preece, is to leave us for the adjacent isle. As a small token of thanks for all her work and support, a steady hand on the tiller of the 1st Douglas, I present her with the Scout Thanks Badge, and on behalf of the entire Group wish her well.

In closing may I extend a very warm welcome to the St. Ninians Girl Guides, the Guides are using the Scout Hall during alterations at St. Ninians Church Hall.

The 1st Douglas Scout Group is the longest continuous Scout Group in the Isle of Man and will continue for the well being and happiness of children with the support of Leaders, friends, parent and grandparents.

Stan Deighan
Chairman, 1st Douglas Executive Group Committee.

Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 31st December 2002

Income during the year was much increased at £29,391. The most notable being the assistance from the Lottery Fund of £7,000 and the much-appreciated gift of £2,500 from Douglas Round Table.

On a sadder note, the Brew Memorial donations were £155.00. Grateful thanks.

2002 has seen 1st Douglas continue on with the upgrading of the Ha;;. The biggest Capital project this year was the car park re-surfacing and the security fencing. The Lottery Fund assistance meant that we were able to afford these two important stages of the project much sooner than expected! We still have a lot to do inside the hall, we will be upgrading the halls fire equipment in the course of the year and many other projects wait in line. If we are to begin to plan for the construction for the extension we must find methods to put cash into the bank.

It has been proposed to utilise the hall more at weekends and hold a monthly Car Boot Sale. We held one as a trial run recently in association with Douglas Ladies Circle and it was very well received indeed with customers queuing an hour before opening time! It is only one suggestion to boost the coffers. Do let us know if you have any ideas towards fundraising. Any fun suggestions considered!

SUMMARY

The hall is much improved, the car park is unrecognisable, but the overall efforts on our finances in the year was an overall drop of £5,327.50 but only as a direct result of the Capital projects. The expenses were as expected and comparable with prior years. All in all a successful year.

Jan Preece

Honorary Treasurer

Receipts

Opening Balance at the Bank	£1,6735.78
Inc Hall Hire	£471.00
Marquee Hire	£200.00
Inc Affiliation Receipts	£1,432.00
Inc Donations	£10,607.49
Inc AGM receipts	£86.32
Inc Super Splash	£34.83
Inc Interest Recd	£49.54
Inc Telephone Receipt	£10.00
Inc Rent Car Park BoEd	£8,500.00
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	£38126.96

Expenses

Stocks	£412.75
Capital Expenditure	£19,766.08
Heat & Light	£1,397.26
Cleaning	£696.00
Printing Tombola Duck Dash (income in 02/03)	£96.35
Telephone	£159.38
Affiliation Pd. To Scout Asscn.	£2,354.10
Interest Paid	£16.50
Data Protection	£5.00
Maintenance	£93.15
Rates	£78.83
Uniform for Palace	£52.50
Bank Charges	£24.00
Insurance	£1,541.58
Contra AC Intrest Chq refunded Feb 03	£25.30
Closing Balance at Bank	£11,408.18
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	£38,126.96

Group Scout Leaders Report

The past twelve months have been an interesting time for 1st Douglas and its members. Apart from being involved in annual Scouting activities, two 1st Douglas Scouts have been on a trip of a lifetime, one Leader has met the Queen and another Leader has been promoted.

Also the Group has been fortunate to gain four new Leaders, Steve Jones and Anna Hemy (Tynwald Pack), Martin Hazell (Cushag Pack) and Paul Cunningham (Scouts).

Other notable events throughout the year were:

July

July last year saw the resurrection of the Group's newsletter and Neil Simpson's visit to Buckingham Palace as part of a group of four representing the Isle of Man Young Achievers.

August

August saw the start of the refurbishment of the car park at the side of the hall, which was made possible by a generous grant from the Manx Public Lottery Trust. With the help of the grant, the Group was able to install security fencing, tarmac the car park and make good the drainage at the site of the hall. A big thank you to Andrew Cunningham for arranging the necessary works.

September

After the summer break the Group took up the challenge of introducing the new Scouting programme. The new programme brought Scouting into the 21st century with the introduction of revised sectional awards and activity badges along with the creation of two new sections: Explorer Scouts and Scout Network.

September also saw members of the Group take part in the Group's annual camp, held at Glen Lough Farm, Glen Vine, and involved all sections of 1st Douglas, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures.

There were many activities over the weekend, which involved each of the sections working together and provided an opportunity for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures to find out a little more about the other sections. Thank you to Colin Brew for organising the camp and for the various Leaders and helpers who made the camp possible.

December

Towards the end of the year saw four Scouts from the Island, two of which were from 1st Douglas (Sam Bentham and David Karran) depart for an adventure of a life time to Thailand, where the World Scout Jamboree was being held.

After meeting up with the rest of their contingent in Manchester, they flew, via Dubai, to Thailand and spent the Christmas period in a five star hotel in Bangkok.

During the Jamboree the lads took part in various activities, cultural visits and encounters with the local wildlife (namely an eleven foot king cobra).

February

During February members of the old T.O. Fisher Venture Unit started work on refurbishing the Group's Bunkhouse out at East Baldwin. So far the Ventures have managed to improve the exterior drainage, install a new window at the rear of the building and clean up the flood damage which was as a result of heavy rains during the end of last year.

If anyone would like to help out with the project please contact either Neil Simpson or Paul Ellison.

February also saw the launch of the 1st Douglas Past and Present area on the Group's web site. The site is designed to bring together the memories of past and present members of the Group as well as showing old photographs of 1st Douglas. If anyone is interested the pages can be found at www.1stdouglas.org.im

Finally, I would like to thank all the Leaders, helpers and parents at 1st Douglas for all the hard work that they have put in to running the various Sections, and the Group's Executive Committee for their support over the last twelve months.

On a final note I would like to wish Anne Atkinson all the best in her new position of Assistant Island Commissioner for Cubs.

Gordon Gledhill
Group Scout Leader
1st Douglas Scout Group

Beavers Report

At present we have 22 Beavers, with approx. 45 on the waiting list.

We have taken part in All Island events which have included bowling, outings, sports day and St George's Day Parade.

As a colony we have also been on tram rides, built sand castles on the beach and attended the group camp at Glen Loch Farm.

At present we have 2 helpers Simon and Samantha, along with the parents from the rota they have been a great help.

With the introduction of the new programme, Beavers can now work towards badges and so far we have completed 4 Information Technology and 4 Swimming badges with lots more to follow.

Cushag Cub Pack Report

I can't believe another year has passed so quickly, we have maintained an average pack of 26 and luckily kept all the leaders being myself Joy Corkill (Akela), Glen Corlett (Kaa), Jacky Dixon (Bagheera), Colin Brew (Chill), Martin Hazell (Haithi), Maritin Corlett, thanks to Explorer Scouts Sam Bentham and Matthew Thompsom for helping out when needed. We still have a waiting list but hope to reduce this as we will have 10 cubs leaving us this term, hopefully to Scouts.

With the introduction of the new programme, we are implementing it in conjunction with completing their old awards. This is done on a Monday night. At present, the cubs are working on the personal safety award and the fitness challenge.

We have taken part in all Island events, i.e. Marathon, Cub Scout Challenge, Supersplash, Five-a-side Football, Island Camp, Bowling, Cooking Competition, First Aid and Scientist, the last three being hosted by 1st Douglas Tynwald and Cushag packs.

We held a joint Halloween/Bonfire party with the Beavers. We held our own Christmas party finishing off with a chip supper. We had an Athletics night together with Willaston cubs, with each cub gaining a badge. We had a Bowling evening at Superbowl.

Unfortunately we didn't manage to get a full Pack Camp due to leader commitments, but we did take part in the Island Camp and around twenty of our cubs attended our Group Camp in Peel. Twelve of our pack with three leaders went on the Camelot trip, where they went on all the rides, made sand dinosaurs and spent all their money.

Two cubs and Akela were lucky enough to be invited by Willaston to join them on their annual trip to Alton Towers, which included an afternoon at Waterworld in Stoke.

This year, St. George's day was not very well supported with only 9 turning up. This will make our bride of "no church no camp" easy to fulfil this year.

We are hoping to organise a lot more outdoor activities this summer, as last summer was a disaster due to the bad weather but we did dodge the raindrops and had a sausage sizzle in the car park.

As usual it is impossible to cover all that the Pack does within one year, to mention the Badges gained or the achievements made, but obviously this would not happen if I did not have the continual support of my own leaders and those of other sections, especially Neil Simpson, who helps out when called for. The Executive Committee who dole out the dosh, who incidentally require extra members (if anyone can spare an hour or so every month or so, please contact our Chairman Stan Deighan, who would be more than grateful to sign you up on the spot). May I also thank Mr Peter Brew and his wife for their continual support in the cooking department etc., the cubs themselves and of course you as parents, I thank you all.

Yours in Scouting

Mrs Joy Corkill
Akela

Tynwald Cub Pack Report

We spent the Summer Term 2002 finishing badges so every Cub was ready to start the new programme in September.

Most boys gained an Entertainer badge when they took to the stage at the Group's AGM. We had a 98% attendance at the St. George's Day Parade, which took place at Summerland. Two boys joined Cubs from the rest of the Island on a day trip to Camelot. We also had Cubs at the Grandstand for TT and MGP and the Island Cub Camp in Ramsey. In July we took part in the Fete at Government House and entered tow teams in the Cub Football Competition. Onchan Cubs joined us for a meeting and supper at Ardwhallin and we finished the term with a Treasure Hunt, which finished at Mac Donalds.

Our Pack Camp was held at Ardwhallin in mixed weather. During the weekend the Cubs had a picnic lunch by the river --in the rain, played wide games, followed a blindfold trail, built shelters in the plantation and went on the climbing wall and obstacle course.

In September we introduced ourselves to the new programme with games based on the new badges. We took part in the Group Camp at Glen Lough. A team of boys were in the Cub Island Bowling Competition. We started on the new Fitness Challenge with our own Bowling night. We were visited by Sam and David who told us of their coming trip to the Jamboree in Thailand and the following week we had our own Thai night with real Thai food kindly prepared for us by Joseph's Aunt. At Christmas all the boys worked for an Art Badge by taking photos of each other and making their own picture frame and printing their own Christmas paper. With help from Anna Hemy they also made tree decorations for the tourist Department's Christmas Tree at the Airport. Our tree was voted 2nd by the public passing through the Airport. We were also featured in Scouting magazine.

In January the Cubs finished the Art Badge by painting self portraits and continued with the Fitness Challenge. Teams took part in a Science afternoon, the Cross Country, Cub Scout Challenge Competition, Super Splash and First Aid Competition. The Cubs who took part in the Science afternoon helped the Leaders run a Science night for the rest of the Pack and everyone earned a Science Badge. At half term a number of Cubs did a Home Help Badge at home (I still have badges if anyone wants a go). We tried cooking pancakes "backwoods style" -- not one of our successful nights. Some of the older Cubs cooked food for us from around the World with help from Mrs. Ogden and Mrs. Jaffri -- a big Thank You to them.

At present we have 26 Cubs -- six of those we hope will be going onto Scouts in September. We have two new Leaders -- Steven Jones who joined us in September and Anna Hemy who had such a good time with the Christmas decorations. She bravely joined us as a Leader on the above mentioned cook night.

I would very much like to thank them and the other Leaders -- Lesley, Gordon and Neil (and Gilly before she left for Uni.) along with all the parents and Leaders I've known in the past 23 years as a Cub Leader for all their help and encouragement. Also my husband and children who deserve the biggest thank you.

Due to other commitments I shall be taking a back seat as a Leader and Gordon will be acting as Akela for the time being.

Anne Atkinson

Scout Troop Report

Over the last year Scouts has seen many changes. We have seen a drop in the number of Scouts, this was due to Explorer Scouts Starting up, this meant that we lost about 8 Scouts whom where ready to start teaching the New Scouts that have come up from Cubs.

But as well as the New Uniform we have been given a new Scout programme to work from, this has been very hard as we did not know how to implement the new program, we are now getting in to the swing of this, The Scouts are now coming around to the new changes in the Scouting Program, but this has not been an easy process.

Scouts have enjoyed various activities during the last year, some of these activities were cooking, Team building and fitness.

Towards the end of the summer the Scouts enjoyed a Group Camp at Glen Lough Farm with other members of 1st Douglas Scout Group, this camp was very successful with the Scouts showing off there leadership skills by being in charge of groups of Beavers, Cubs and fellow Scouts.

To end the summer season at Scouts we took them down to McDonalds for a bit to eat for their good behaviour.

During the winter the Scouts have shown off their “Can’t cook wont Cook” skills by cooking a three-course meal on a twin hob gas stove.

Towards the end of last Year Steve Cracknell who was Scout Leader, had to step down, so I was asked to take over the Scouts, which was a big step, as I have never run a Scout troop before, but we have not lost Steve he is still helping us when he gets a free minute.

During the Last 6 months 5th & 6th Douglas Scouts have joined up with 1st Douglas and 1st Willaston Scouts, this is only until 5th Douglas Scouts get their numbers back up.

As well as 5th & 6th Douglas joining us, I have gained two very skilled leaders, who have helped me through the end of the winter and they have been teaching the Scouts, various Knotting skills.

Over the next year, were are planning weekend camps, learning more Scouting skills, (Axe skills, Saws skills, Backwoods cooking etc.)

Next summer we have been invited back to Michigan International Camporee, in Lansing, America.

Neil Simpson
Scout Leader