



# 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scout Group

## Annual Report

2004

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## **Chairman's Report**

Chairman's Annual Report.2004

The past year has been one of considerable improvement to the Scout Hall, brought about by the Group Committee's decision to up date the premises to comply with the current Fire and Health/Safety Regulations. With the assistance of the Isle of Man Fire Service we have installed a "State of the Art" Fire Alarm System with a direct link to the Central Fire Station.

All the doors have been replaced with fire doors and a safety tunnel has been created. New storage cupboards have been built in the hall to accommodate scouting equipment. Thanks to the Isle of Man Lottery Trust new windows have been installed in the Court of Honour Room.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust, the group will be proceeding with the first phase of installing disabled facilities in the Scout Hall.

The Group Committee is in the process of negotiating the renewal of the car park lease with the Isle of Man Board of Education. The rental income from the car park is a major source of income for the group.

In closing, I thank all the members of the Group Committee for their help and support. I thank all the parents for their interest in the 1st Douglas Scout Group. The committee would be delighted to welcome parents to the committee meetings. Help is always needed with fund raising ideas and building maintenance for both the Scout Hall and the Bunkhouse at Baldwin.

**Stan Deighan**  
**Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Executive Group Committee**

## **Treasurers Report for the Year ended 31 December 2003**

Total income for 2003 was £17,505.11 and includes assistance from the lottery fund, which allowed the Scouts to preserve and protect the stained glass windows at the front of the hall.

2003 has seen major expenditure on the Scout Hall to improve the Fire Safety. Although this was not necessary by law, the Committee felt the safety of the children was paramount and have updated the fire precautions with the co-operation of the Isle of Man Fire Service.

All the doors have been replaced with half hour fire doors, a fire wall has been created in the main hall as well as a half hour fire tunnel in the main entrance. A Fire Alarm system (Auto Dial) has been installed with a direct link to the Isle of Man fire Service.

The total cost of this work was in the region of £12,500 and has made a considerable impact on the funds of 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scouts.

Expenditure exceeded income by £6,000 due to Capital Expenditure and while this was a planned expense, it means that any further improvements to the Hall will need some form of fundraising from our Scouting Community.

**Sarah Downing-Green**  
**Honorary Treasurer.**

### **Income and Expenditure for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003**

#### **Receipts**

Opening Balance at Bank	£11,408.18
Affiliation Receipts	£1,814.40
Board of Education	£8,500.00
Contra interest	£25.30
Donation - Marquee	£200.00
Donation - Board of Ed	£500.00
Duck Dash Receipts	£611.00
Donation - Hall Use	£1,276.00
Interest received	£29.41
Lottery Grant - windows	£4,369.03
Miscellaneous Sales	£70.00
Raffle	£43.55
Supersplash	£66.42
	<b>£ 28,913.29</b>

#### **Expenditure**

Affiliation to Scouts	£2,246.40
Capital Exp - Fire Protection	£12,545.55
Capital Exp -Windows	£4,369.03
Capital Exp - Car Park	£300.00
Cleaning	£442.00
Donation	£20.00
Duck Dash	£175.00
Heat & Light	£1,077.69
Insurance	£1,803.64
Maintenance - Bunk House	£59.66
Maintenance -Scout Hall	£205.00
Old Friends 1st Douglas	£135.38
Printing	£40.00
Rates	£86.94
Telephone	£161.79
Closing Balance at Bank	£5,245.21
	<b>£ 28,913.29</b>

## **Group Scout Leaders Report**

As you can see from reading the various reports 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas has had quite an active twelve months and it's thanks to the Executive members, Leaders, helpers and parents that things happen.

As well as the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts taking part in the usual Scouting events and camps they have also been implementing the new Scout Programme, which from all accounts has been running quite successfully.

Unfortunately the only let down that we have had was this year's Scout Super Splash. For the first time in a long while we did not have any Cubs entered.

Looking at other events that have taken place: -

Back in November the Group held a successful 'Open Day' which gave everyone an opportunity to have a look at old and not so old Scouting memorabilia as well as sampling home made mince pies.

February Frolics came next. During the night we were treated to various sketches along with a campfire singsong at the end. A big thanks to everyone who came along.

March saw the Group hold a 'Back to the Future' meal which was organised by Peter and Kath Birch. With help from some of the Scouts those attending were treated to a rather unusual dinner. I'll say no more in case we organise another one in the future. Also in March saw and experimental Moving On Camp which involved the older Cubs about to go up to Scouts and some of the younger Scouts. Although the weather wasn't the best I think everyone on the camp enjoyed themselves.

Looking ahead. In July a number of 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scouts along with several Douglas Explorers will be on their way to Michigan for an International Camporee. As you can appreciate the cost of this trip will not be cheap. Please contact our Scout Leader Neil Simpson if you are able to help in any way with fund raising.

As mentioned earlier things don't happen without help and any help at 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas is always welcome. If you feel that you have some time to give please contact any of the Leaders or Executive.

Finally I would like to thank all the Leaders, helpers and parents for all their hard work over the past twelve months with running the various Sections and the Group Executive for keeping a roof over our heads.

**Gordon Gledhill**  
**Group Scout Leader**

## **Beavers Report**

At present we have 22 Beavers, with approx. 60 on the waiting list.

During the following year the Beavers have visited the fire station as well as having visit from the coastguards. Also they have taken part in the Beaver football competition, the annual bowling competition, Beaver sports as well as St. George's Day Parade.

Since the introduction of the new programme, the Beavers have gained fifteen Information Technology badges, one musician badge, fifteen swimming badges, ten Animal Friend badges, twenty one Creative badges and twelve Explore badges. Ten Beavers have also swum up to Cubs.

**Kath Bentham**  
**Beaver Leader**

## **Cushag Cub Pack Report**

Cushag Pack has had a mixed but busy year once again.

Our numbers have averaged around 20 and since Christmas have been kept down due to my absence and due to Bagheera (Jacky)'s absence feeding the (5,000?) student teachers. However, we have just had a swimming up and with our leadership back to full strength we would hope to increase our numbers again for the coming year.

I should just record my thanks to Kaa (Glen), Chil (Colin), Haithi (Martin) and Baloo (Martin) for holding the fort while I was missing.

Cushag pack was, as usual, represented at most Island Cub events including the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Competition at Ramsey, the 5-a-side football at Noble's Park, the Marathon at Ballasalla and the Cub Scout Challenge. Although we didn't bring home any trophies this year (missing out by only one point at the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, we still had fun.

Cushag Pack also attended the all-Island Scouting events including the TT and MGP scoreboards, the St George's Day Parade at St Ninians and the Island Cub Camp.

The Island Camp was held at the Crossags Campsite in Ramsey and the Cubs were able to have a go at lots of different activities including Canoeing and Rafting at the Mooragh Park.

The Pack was also on camp (although not under canvas this time) at Ballasalla Village Hall where the wet weather did not stop us visiting Castle Rushen, Rushen Abbey and the Nautical Museum and getting drenched in the Silverburn river. And again, some of our Cubs camped at Eary Cushlin for 24 hours with the Scouts and Tynwald Pack.

On Pack nights we have continued to do our badge work including everyone getting their athletes badge when we did a joint meeting (with BBQ) at 1<sup>st</sup> Willaston. As a pack the cubs have also completed their road safety and physical fitness badges during this last year.

Finally Cushag Pack were involved in the February Frolics where our Cubs did 2 sketches and joined in with the Campfire Singing.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported the Pack over the last year including leaders, parents and Cubs and I hope we can all look forward to another successful year for 2004/05.

**Akela**  
**(Joy Corkill)**

## **Tynwald Cub Pack Report**

After finishing last year's report saying I was going to take a back seat as a leader here I am again.

The Summer Term started as usual with the St. George's Day Parade. At our AGM six Cubs became the first to receive the new Chief Scout's Silver Award. Five of those Cubs are now Scouts.

During the term the Cubs worked on a Caring Challenge, Local Knowledge Badge and tried for an Athlete's Badge at Noble's Park.

As part of the Caring Challenge and Local Knowledge Badge we visited the Lifeboat Station and St. George's Church - thanks to Paul Cunningham and Mr Kit Gawne for their help. We also went on a history treasure hunt around Douglas. As a thank you to the Lifeboat and the Church and as part of the Caring Badge, the Cubs (together with 2nd Douglas Cubs who I also took to the Lifeboat and to Bradden Cemetery) held a Summer Fayre on what must have been the hottest night of the year. They raised £75, which was split between the three charities. Most of the money was raised by throwing wet sponges at each other to keep cool.

We had two teams in the Cub Scout Football competition and four Cubs took part in the Island Cub Camp where they canoed, made pancakes and built shelters etc.

Our Pack Holiday took place at Port Erin Scout H.Q. On Friday evening we held a window shopping wide game. On Saturday we caught the bus to Cregneash where we made pots and found treasure with metal detectors. After our packed lunch we hiked to Port St Mary and then caught the bus back to Port Erin. Saturday evening saw the Cubs having a very early night due to a leader misreading a clock! On Sunday we went by train to Port St Mary where we had a Barbecue on the beach and then eighteen very tired and mucky Cubs were returned to their parents.

In September we started work on Home Safety, Personal Safety and Road Safety Badges. We are still finishing these badges. We had a team in the Cub Scout Bowling Competition. On November 5th we joined the Scouts and Explorer Scouts for the biggest Firework Party ever. Our thanks to Mark Briton for keeping the crowds in order.

In December we entered an Island Art and Craft Competition and some Cubs were lucky enough to win certificates.

During the Spring Term we continued with our last term's badges with a visit from Sgt. Mark Briton as part of the Personal and Home Safety Badges. We entertained at the February Frolics and held a Handicap Awareness Night. For the Chef's Badge, two sixes cooked a three course meal for the other two sixes and the following week they swapped around. As the only leader brave enough to eat with them I think they should all be congratulated as excellent cooks. We finished the term with an Easter Egg treasure hunt.

During the term we had a team in the First Aid Competition who worked very hard but unfortunately for the first time ever we were unable to enter a team in the Scout Super Splash. Occasionally we send notes home for competitions or badge work and it is very disheartening when that is the last we see of them and it is disheartening for the Cubs who miss out on receiving badges etc.

In March three older Cubs took part in an experimental Moving On Camp at Eary Cushlin together with three Cushag Cubs and three Scouts. Unfortunately the weather was so windy we were unable to stick to our programme but it will be worth doing again but maybe at a different location.

We have twenty-four Cubs at present; six are due to go to Scouts soon. This time next year we will have fourteen Cubs going to Scouts which will leave us with very few Cubs. What we need is a new

Beaver Colony to feed our Cub Pack and reduce their waiting list if anyone would like to volunteer a leader.

I would like to thank Gordon and Neil for helping to keep Tynwald Pack going - especially Neil who is also the Scout Leader and helps with Explorer Scouts as well as many Island events. A big Thank You also to Anna and Lesley for helping us when needed. And finally, a big Thank You goes to Kate who came to us as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award and who we can't now manage without.

**Anne Atkinson**  
**AIC Cub Scouts**

## **Scout Troop Report**

Over the last year our Scout numbers have risen and the Troop number is now at a comfortable level.

We have now implemented the new uniform and with the help of the Patrol Leaders (PL's) and Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL's), who are organising the programme two months at a time, have managed to get the new Scout programme up and running.

New PL's and APL's have been appointed due to the previous ones becoming too old. However I haven't lost their skills as they are still coming down every Thursday to help with Inspection and other activities throughout the night. Thank you to Adam Killip and Ben Lambden for all your help.

Just to update you on last year's report. I mentioned that 5<sup>th</sup> Douglas and 1<sup>st</sup> Willaston Scouts were also meeting with our Troop. Well this hasn't changed as we have one Scout from each invested in each troop.

During last year I have managed to gain another leader, Paul Cunningham. He is not a new face to 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas, as he spent most of his youth either as a 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Cub, Scout or Venture Scout.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Barry McGrath and Ken Quaye for their help. Although both Barry and Ken said that they would be taking a step back from Scouting they are both ready to put on their uniforms again and give me a hand when I need it. Thanks to both of you.

During the busy Christmas period or should I say the last three shopping days before Christmas you might of seen Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Douglas and 1<sup>st</sup> Willaston Scouts packing bags at Safeway's in Douglas. The money which they raised from packing all those bags over the three days has help us reduce the cost of our America trip this year. We managed to raise £1,937.00.

This year I am taking Scouts & Explorers Scouts, eleven in total, to Michigan in America to take part in the Michigan International Camporee. The trip will involve a week of home-stay an then a week under canvas close to Lake Michigan. If you think you can help us raise money for this event with either sponsorship or just helping with any fundraising ideas please contact myself.

Looking ahead to the next twelve month. I'm hoping that with further training we can enter some of the other Scouting competitions that are held, such as the backwoods cooking or the Letter trail.

This summer is going to be a busy one, but for everybody who has helped myself thank you.

**Neil Simpson**  
**Scout Leader**