

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

## Annual Report

2005

Est. 1909

[www.1stdouglas.org.im](http://www.1stdouglas.org.im)

# **Chairman's Report**

The past year has been a good one for the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group.

The Group Committee have secured a new lease for the car park with the Department of Education. This lease is for a further 10 year contract with a built in inflation clause based on the fees charged by the Local Government Board and Douglas Corporation car parks. The income from the new lease will enable the group to proceed with their plan to modernise the Scout Hall and build an extension on the rear. A detailed professional survey will be carried out very shortly.

The group also own a small property at Baldwin known as "The Bunkhouse" which was previously used for camping. "The Bunkhouse" is presently being renovated. The Group Committee have decided to modernise the property, heating is being installed and negotiations are proceeding to have a supply of mains water. Thanks to Neil Simpson and his team for all their hard work and to the Douglas and Onchan Round Table Members for their financial assistance.

The Group Committee have recently invited the Mayor of Douglas to be our Patron. Historically, the Mayor has been patron of the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas and we have enjoyed a good relationship with Douglas Town.

Finally, I thank the Group Committee, the Group Scoutmaster, Leaders, and Parents for their support and dedication to the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas.

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

# **Treasurers Report**

## **Income and Expenditure for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004**

<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Opening Balance at Bank	£ 5,245.21	Affiliation to Scouts	£ 2,001.12
Affiliation Receipts	£ 1,810.15	Gaming Commission	£ 5.00
Board of Education	£ 5,962.50	Capital Exp -Windows	£ 676.24
Donations received	£ 310.00	Tynwald Cub Camp	£ 100.00
Donation - Hall Use	£ 2,283.00	Cleaning	£ 673.00
Interest received	£ 13.66	Bank Charges	£ 20.35
Tynwald cub camp	£ 100.00	Capital Exp -Tables	£ 855.18
Back to the Future Dinner	£ 122.80	Heat & Light	£ 1,699.17
Raffle	£ 52.00	Insurance	£ 2,140.83
Mince Pies	£ 36.70	Maintenance - Bunk House	£ -
		Maintenance -Scout Hall	£ 204.14
		Old Friends 1st Douglas	£ 76.38
		Printing	£ 30.00
		Rates	£ 95.39
		Telephone	£ 158.18
		Closing Balance at Bank	£ 7,201.04
	<b>£ 15,936.02</b>		
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**Sarah Downing-Green**  
Honorary Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Executive Group Committee

## **Group Scout Leaders Report**

Reading the reports you can see that the Group's Executive and the various Sections have all had a busy year.

By securing a 10 year lease with the Department of Education, the Group is assured an income which can be used to maintain the general upkeep of the Scout Hall and will now allow refurbishment projects, projects which could only be dreamed about, to be fully realised. The building of an additional storage area for camping equipment will be a welcome asset and the renovation of the Group's Bunkhouse will see 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas camping at Baldwin once again.

Maintaining a sufficient number of sectional members can be a problem and the possible addition of a second Beaver Colony within the Group will be a great asset. However having a full Colony, Pack or Troop would be no good without sufficient Leaders and Helpers. If you think you have something to offer by way of a skill or knowledge and want to be part of the oldest continuous Group on the Island then please contact any of the Leaders.

Looking at the Sectional reports a lot of work has gone into keeping the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts active. Taking part in Island events is a crucial part of Scouting as it not only brings together members from around the Island to have fun together but it also enables Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to take part in activities which they may not usually be able to do.

The trip undertaken by the Scouts to Michigan appears to be an adventure of a lifetime and one that will probably be remembered for quiet a while. If anyone can help with fundraising for the Scouts next visit in 2008 then I'm sure Neil would like to hear from you.

Finally I would like to thank the Group's Executive Committee for the time they put aside to keep the hall running and to all the Leaders, Helpers and Parents for the time they give up in order to run the various Sections.

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

## **Beavers Report**

We have had a busy year doing lots of craft items, badge work and activities. Most of the Beavers have gained several badges through work at the scout hall, home or completing tasks.

We have been on several trips, horse tram ride, sandcastle competition on the beach, scavenger hunt and a visit to the Coastguards. We have all joined in all island activities like sports day, five a-side football, bowling and an outing to Laxey Glen gardens.

The colony is full with approximately 20-24 Beavers at any time. The waiting list stands at 60. We are hoping to open another colony and we have a new helper called Lisa who may be willing to take this on.

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

## **Cushag Cub Pack Report**

Despite some turmoil amongst the leaders due to illness etc. over the last year and particularly over the last 6 months Cushag Pack has had another busy year.

Our numbers have averaged around 24 which is just about manageable as latterly we have only had 2 leaders and one helper to plan and organise everything. Whilst we are looking forward to Akela (Joy)'s return from illness in the not too distant future and Bagheera (Jacky)'s return after looking after her students, I must express particular thanks to Haithi (Martin), Shere Khan (Greg) and the Explorers (leaders and boys) without whose help I doubt whether we could have kept the pack functioning.

Cushag pack was, as usual, represented at all the Island Cub events which included the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Competition at Ramsey, the 5-a-side football at St Johns, an Art Day at the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas HQ and the Scout Super Splash. The Pack was also represented in a joint team with Tynwald Pack at the Marathon at Ballasalla where we came joint 1<sup>st</sup> and our three entries into the Cunningham House Craft competition resulted in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> certificates for Conor Crowe, Jack Gibney and Matthew Jack. All the boys who were in our various teams tried really hard and enjoyed themselves.

Cushag Pack also attended the all-Island Scouting events including the TT and MGP scoreboards, the St Georges Day Parade at Peel Castle and the Island Cub Camp.

The Island Camp was again 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 represented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group camp at Glen Lough Farm where beautiful weekend weather wise helped everyone to enjoy an activity packed environmentally themed under canvas camp. The camp also included a bus trip to Peel to visit Peel Castle, have a barbeque and fun on the beach.

On Pack nights we have continued to do some badge work and Martin and I are in the process of working out who has done what so that we can get some overdue badges awarded. Most of the pack did however get their craft badges, some personal fitness badges were achieved and athlete's badges were awarded following a joint meeting (with another BBQ) at 1<sup>st</sup> Willaston. Yet another BBQ of sorts was held when the Pack had a cooking night in the car park (the majority of the sausages were just about edible).

Finally the Pack also had a joint night with the Beavers for a Fireworks party.

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 2005/06.

**Chil**  
**(Colin Brew)**

## **Tynwald Cub Pack Report**

Here we are again, another year gone by.

At the beginning of the Summer term we planted Sunflower seeds. I'm not sure how well the Cubs did with theirs but there was a lot of competition between the leaders. (The winning one didn't count as his Mother grew them)

The St. George's Day Parade was held in Peel Castle and proved to be very successful but I'm not sure how well attended it was by Tynwald Pack Cubs.

At our AGM we presented two new trophies, one for “Good Scouting” and one for the “Cub of the Year”. These were presented to Sam Cain and Juan Corrin’s who worked on a Creative Challenge Badge which they had started at the previous term’s February frolics. As part of the badge they made and decorated kites; took photos and made Scouting Posters. We had a visit to the Airport Fire station where we all had a go at squirting a hose. We all walked around Douglas in small groups taking photos and the next week we swapped photos and had a “treasure hunt” by finding a route around town following the photos. A big Thank You to Laura who helped us out on the night.

In May four Cubs entered the Cub Scout Challenge Competition.

We had our Group Camp in May at Glen Lough and seven Cubs took part in the Island Cub Camp at Ramsey in June.

Tynwald Pack Camp was held at Ballasalla. During the weekend we visited the Craft Centre at Silverdale (after getting very dirty at Mull ny Carty) and all the Cubs painted a pot - many in the shape of a skull! These will become collector’s items in years to come as they are all unique and will be priceless. They should cause great excitement on the Antiques Road Show 2104. On the Sunday morning we travelled by train to Castletown and returned by bus after a picnic lunch.

At the start of the Autumn term the older Cubs went on an Island day out by tram to the Venture Centre at Maughold. We had a team in the Cub Scout football competition and a joint team with Cushag Pack in the Marathon which we won. Well done boys!! As the dark nights arrived we had a hike along the Marine Drive without torches and we were able to stargaze (if only we knew what they were!) and see planes going in to land at Ronaldsway. We also had an environmental theme throughout the term which included a talk by Stephanie Grey on the benefits of recycling and the Cubs brought in newspapers etc and walked down to the recycling bins at Tescos with them. They also brought in books and comics for a “swap shop”, an idea which we may well repeat. The Cubs who took part in the Cub Scout Challenge Competition helped run a Challenge night for the rest of the Pack as part of their Chief Scout’s Challenge Badge. During the evening the Cubs had to sew on a button; read maps; recognise local landmarks; read timetables and do a sports quiz. We also had an International night to show how Scouting is worldwide. In December we had a Chinese night and finished the term with a Party. Four Cubs received their Chief Scouts Silver Award and Scout Moving On Award.

Our theme for the Winter term was 100 Years. We played games that children played 100 years ago; designed a futuristic car as the AA was 100 years old and also the first car to reach 100 mph was a 100 years ago; grew crystals, the biggest diamond was found 100 years ago; had a chocolate egg night as Cadburys are 100 years old. As Dr Bernado died 100 years ago we had a blindfold trail around the Hall to show what it was like going up chimneys etc. I did want to do a Sound of Music night as Maria Von Trapp was born 100 years ago but was out voted - I think it might have been my singing! The Cubs took part in a survey around the Hall and suggested ways to make it more welcoming. As a result we have run a competition to design a welcoming sign for the entrance hall which is yet to be judged. During Fair Trade week Gordon ran a Fair Trade night and the Cubs discovered how Bananas are traded around the world and were surprised to find how little money part of the chain earn. We had teams entered in Island events - An Art day; First Aid Competition and Scout Supersplash. All the Cubs did a lot of art during the term - self portraits (some were very scary), Collage pictures and Easter Cards. Most of them earned an Art Badge and all had at least one entry in an Art and Craft Competition run by the Cunningham House Committee, (Scout and Guide HQ) many winning certificates.

At present we only have 17 Cubs and 9 of those are now Scout age. They have decided to wait a few more weeks before going to Scouts as they are so near finishing their Silver Award and would like to do so. (They can start on their Moving On Badge by going to Scouts on a few “taster nights” if they check with Neil first.) This will leave us with only 8 Cubs. Hopefully we are about to get

another Beaver Colony and this will help eventually but if you know of any boys who are between 8 and 9 and would like to become Cubs please send them our way.

Once again I would like to thank the leaders for their time on a Wednesday evening and for the extra time they give for competitions etc. – especially Neil - without him I don't think I would have retained my sanity this past year! The biggest Thank You must go to the Cubs themselves as this has been a very busy year for me and I have not been able to give them the attention they deserve but they have all been very patient - thank you.

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

## **Scout Troop Report**

Over the last year the Troop has seen a rise in the number of Scouts, this was due to quite a number of older Cubs moving up, so I now have a nice number of Scouts at present.

Now we have the New Uniform and New Scout programme, and a good weekly program arranged, the PL's (Patrol Leaders) and APL's (Assistant Patrol Leaders) have been organising their own program 2 months at time.

Over the last year I have only lost two Scouts to Explorer Scouts. I now have a few Scouts who are getting ready to go to Explorer Scouts, but I have got more Cubs on the way from the different Cub packs.

During the last year I have had a lot of help extra help from various Leaders like Paul Ellison, Robert Thomson and recently Paul Cunningham and Craig Brown. They have helped me run the games and helped with the Inspection of the Scouts at the start of the night. I would also like to extend thanks to Adam Killip and Ben Lambden for all there help over the year.

If you did not know it is not just 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scouts which turn up on a Thursday night, I also have Scouts from 5<sup>th</sup> Douglas and 1<sup>st</sup> Willaston Scouts with me. The Scouts from those Groups are invested under there own Scarves.

Over the last Year I have had to call in extra help from a semi retired Scout Leader, Ken Quaye who decided to take a step back from active Scouting over a year ago. Ken is always ready to help when I phone him up at the last minute. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his support throughout the past year.

As some of you might remember from last years report I mentioned about taking a group of Scouts to Michigan in America, This trip was very successful with a total of 8 Scouts and 3 Leaders attending the event. Before we got to America we were contacted by an Irish Scout Troop who were going to Michigan as well, so we flew out to Dublin where we were met by two of their Scouts. The following morning we got a lift back to the Airport by the Scouts parents and then flew out to America. Once we landed in Atlanta we then had to get an internal flight to Detroit and on arriving at Detroit Airport we were met by our "Home Stay" families who we were staying with over the next week.

During the week of home stay we had visits to a few shopping malls, ice skating and one of the most enjoyed trips by all of us, was to the Wright- Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. This took us about four hours to complete most of the Air Force Base.

The first week of home stay went by very quickly and we were soon packing all our camping gear into the trailer for the drive up to Michigan Campsite, the drive took around three hours with a

small stop for dinner. Once we arrived on site we were made most welcome and were shown to our camping area.

During our stay at the Camporee we camped with some Hungarians, Canadians, and the local Scout Troops. There were many activities to take part in such as team building games, rifle shooting, Black Powder shooting, and water sports - canoeing, rowing or even just swimming in the lake.

If you would like to read the full report of our trip please contact myself. For information Michigan International Camporee has already been booked for 2008. So if you are at present a Cub you may be able to attend the next camp. 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.

During the next year I hope that my Scouts will enter the Backwoods cooking competition and the Orienteering competition

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

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

The Scout Association  
**Tsunami Appeal**  
Helping Scouts rebuild their communities



During the quiz night a raffle will be held in aid of The Scout Associations Tsunami Appeal.

The focus of the appeal is not on providing emergency aid - there are aid agencies already tackling this sort of work. Rather, this challenge is about what we as Scouts can do to help fellow Scouts begin the process of reconstruction and recovery.

The money from the appeal will go directly to fund regeneration work in the affected regions. It will be used to re-start and re-equip Scout Groups, and to support Scout projects to help rebuild communities. Some of the funds raised may be for emergencies, but most will be for longer-term recovery and development projects.

## A message from the Chief Scout

Together with our Scouting family around the world, our thoughts are with our brothers and sisters Scouts across the Asia Pacific Region.

I have traveled both to Sri Lanka and Sumatra. I have fished with men from Galle, and worked with Oxfam to provide pumps to provide fresh water in remote villages in Indonesia.



I have been thinking about the disaster with vivid personal memories of the places I went to and the people I met.

Many of our UK Members have been asking how best we can offer support and solidarity to the countries affected by the tsunami. **The Scout Association - Tsunami Appeal** is part of a global Scout effort to help Scouts rebuild their communities.

All of the money raised will go to fund work in the affected countries. For supporting the immediate disaster relief effort, we encourage anyone who wants to make a donation to do so direct to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Since Boxing Day, there has been close contact with the organizations in those countries, and with the Asia Pacific Regional office.

Scouting in the Asia Pacific Region will be preparing a coordinated plan for the months ahead. This will prepare not only for the reconstruction of Scouting in those areas, but also for how Scouts can assist with the wider task of community regeneration.

I know you will give generously to the appeal. In the meantime, I know that all Scouts here in the UK join me in offering your thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters across the world.

**Peter Duncan Chief Scout**