

AGM 11 June 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This past year has seen the District obtain a new 35 year lease on Park Farm Camp Site. The document was finally signed by both The Scout Association Trust Corporation and Reigate and Banstead Council late last year. I would like to thank Denver Woodward and Len Butler who assisted in many hours of scrutiny ensuring that the new lease met our requirements. I would also like to thank Ken Gulati who provided a skilled eye to the various clauses and gave some excellent guidance as to the wording.

The Board of Trustees have had a busy year not only ratifying the above but in the planning and approval of the upgrades that have taken place to Park Farm. In addition we now have the task of sourcing and applying for funds to allow further much needed improvements. We hope that after this year's camping season we will be in a position to start work on the toilets.

All in all we have had a successful year which has seen much change within the district not least of which was our change of name to a Board of Trustees. This change has been driven by changes to the Charity Commission and how we report our accounts and the change of title has happened throughout the county. I believe we are in a strong position to carry the district forward and deliver a program and facilities that our young people expect and deserve.

Colin Griffiths, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

DISTRICT LEADERS REPORTS

I share this 2018/19 reporting period with my predecessor Jan Jobson who stepped down as District Commissioner at the end of July 2018 after four years in the role. In this past year we have seen the launch of the Scouting Association's strategic 5 year plan 'Skills for Life', which through our District Development plan we continue to work towards the vision that by 2023, 'We will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme, We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities'. In addition to proactively communicating the Skills for Life message and the roll out the updated brand the District Development plan outlines how we support; **Growth**; through the formation of a Growth & Development Steering Group to seek out more members and adult volunteers, **Inclusivity**; by making it easier to be involved in Scouting, **Youth Shaped**; by encouraging peer leadership, and ways to make a bigger **Community impact**.

Thank you to the very large number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network, SASU and Leaders who paraded in Banstead High Street to attend the special centenary Remembrance service in November and again in April for St George's day. This year we had some marching music to promote the relaunch of the Banstead District Scout Band. I'm always so proud to see how well Scouting is represented and respected in our local community. The County commissioner joined us at the St George's day parade this year and presented various awards, none more deserving than to a Woodmansterne Cub who raised the alarm on spotting a building fire.

I'm pleased to announce that Mark Wingett has agreed to become my Deputy to support me with delivering our District Development plan as well as continuing as Park Farm site manager. Other changes in the District team include Callum Hawker as Deputy Youth Commissioner and Liz Keegan as Young Leader Unit Leader, both helping to deliver our Youth Shaped plan. I would like to thank all the Group Scout Leaders and District team members for their outstanding support during my first year as District Commissioner. Banstead District really is a pleasure to be part of and I look forward to another great year in Scouting ahead.

Kelvin Freeman - District Commissioner

BEAVERS

The individual colonies have had another very busy year, with lots of sleepovers, outings and visits from local community workers and volunteers. There are currently around 160 Beavers in Banstead District, with 30 six-year olds on the waiting lists. Most colonies are full or nearly full, but the leaders liaise at our termly meetings to check who can squeeze in any more children. It was really good news to see Walton Beavers successfully re-open their doors in 2018. The majority of Beavers in the District are boys, but some Colonies have a few girls attending regularly. As always, all the leaders continue to work hard to provide a fun and varied programme each week for our noisy and enthusiastic young Beaver Scouts.

One of the highlights of the year in 2018 was Bazzaz. Just over 100 very excited Beavers and slightly trepidatious leaders arrived bright and early at the new venue in Merrist Wood. We had a fabulous day in glorious sunshine and tried out endless inflatables, crafts and skills challenges. Our second Beavers' District event of the year was a cinema afternoon in November. Around 70 Beavers, leaders, parents and a few Cubs watched Incredibles 2 at St Mark's church. We had a fun afternoon, improved by testing out their popcorn machine (it worked!!!).

Many thanks to all the amazing leaders and helper that make it so much fun for the Beavers.

Liz Batten - ADC Beavers

CUBS

All pack are working towards their Chief Scout silver award, providing good varied and interesting programmes. Some packs are down on numbers from last year's census. Sadly, despite many meetings with parents and a trial period, Walton on the hill were unable to restart the cub pack. We are hoping that the cub pack will start again in September when some Beavers move up. We held our annual Quiz with the winner going forward to represent the District at County level. We also ran our shooting competition which everyone enjoyed. All packs are getting ready for their summer camps. 145 cubs and leaders are booked to attend our SCRAM event in June at Hook Road arena where we will join with all the other cubs in Surrey for a full day of fun and activities.

On behalf of the Cubs, thank you to the cub leaders, assistants and volunteers for another great year to be a Cub Scout.

Frank Jones - ADC Cubs

SCOUTS

The troops all have very full outdoor programmes ranging from a water activity camp, shooting competition camp and attendance at the county camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland. There have been the usual indoor activities including the master at arms badge. The section has an input from the scouts themselves as part of the Youth Shaped approach. In 2018 Banstead obtained 16 Chief Scout Gold Awards which is a fantastic result, especially pleasing as every troop was represented. This is higher than some years but reflected the age range of the troops. Sadly, we lost Carsten earlier this year but fortunately Callum Hawker and Tom Waters have stepped up to run the Tadworth troop.

There was a lot of support from the Scout and Explorer sections at Bazzaz with activities and a tremendous turnout for the 100 years Armistice parade.

My thanks to the leaders who give up their time every week to run meetings and organise all the activities.

David Shepherd – ADC Scouts

EXPLORERS

Banstead 4th explorer unit continued to develop in its second year having had a summer camp and now has a young people exec and have run their first AGM. Rebecca Charman has recently stepped in to help with the unit. Numbers are slightly down across Banstead units this year but we still have over 80 Explorers. All units are now able to run activities more effectively providing quality over quantity. They have been involved in numerous camps ranging from Scotland, Cheshire and the now traditional pre-Christmas Hikes to assisting with family camps and other sections, Explorers have a varied programme mainly determined by the youngsters as part of the Youth Shaped approach from organising their AGM to survival skills, go karting, shooting and Scuba. Explorers are registered on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as well as completing their Scout awards and activity badges.

Liz Keegan become leader of the Young Leaders section. In January we held a gathering to bring young leaders together and hopefully inspire them in their roles. Over 20 attended and there are plans to run more activities for them later this year

My thanks to the leaders for all the fantastic activities they have organised

David Shepherd – District Explorer Scout Commissioner

NETWORK

Network currently has 20 members and 15 of them are at University so it makes meetings very low on numbers. We are also victims of our own success as 75% of the members are leaders within the District, which is the whole point of the Unit. So although our fortnightly meetings have a low turnout, our success, along with the Districts young leaders unit, are Instrumental in the future leaders of the District. We are trying to attract the older Explorers but since the SA changed the joining from 17½ up to 18, there is no longer that crossover before leaving Explorers which we used to have and worked very well.

Last year Network attended Bazzaz with the Dunk Tank and also helped on the assault course, we also attended Colin Sutherlands Train Day with the BBQ, which is always a great success.

After 12 years of running Network Mark Wingett is stand down as Network Commissioner. We are all so thankful to Mark for not only starting the unit but for his time and dedication in running the unit over the years that has seen so many members become leaders or move into great careers.

We are planning for the members to take over the running of the unit to bring in a fresh approach to Network.

David Field - Network Commissioner

SASU

SASU has quietly been working in the background and although we have not had any social events due to the amount of time and work I've been putting in at Park Farm, SASU have been helping out where needed, they were at BAZZAZ last year and will be at SCRAM this year as well as helping at Nork's Family camp and Beaver Fun day.

Due to Park Farm almost being a fulltime job, I have taken the decision to stand down as SASU manager and reduce my role to just the treasurer. I started up SASU and I want it to be a success in the District. So if anyone out there wants a role that is not a weekly commitment. Please let me know.

Mark Wingett - SASU Manager

NIGHTS AWAY

Over 2018 we issued 11 Nights Away Permits to leaders in Banstead with 3 being to leaders who have not held a permit previously. Overall we have 44 leaders able to take the youngsters on overnight experiences across all sections and units. There are also 2 leaders in the process of obtaining a permit. During 2018 Banstead camped almost as many nights as 2017 despite over 200 nights at Scoutabout in 2017 so discounting that, camp nights were up nearly 8%

David Shepherd – Nights Away Manager

AGM 11 June 2019 – PARK FARM REPORT

It's certainly been a busy year for Park Farm. Although it was rather quiet from April to September with just basic gardening and maintenance, as we were not sure what was happening with the lease we didn't want to start any big projects. But once the Lease was eventually signed and exchanged at the end of August it was non-stop.

On 27th September we started on the Workshop, the aim to be completed by Christmas. Electrics needed updating and power sockets needed installing and trying to maximise every inch of space was a challenge. We did manage to complete by Christmas, although we are still making improvements and it amazes us that we managed to get all that is in there in to the tiny old workshop (that wasn't really a workshop, more of a store room). Now being able to work and maintain tools, equipment and repair items indoors, out

of the rain and wind, is a joy we have waited a long time for. Only downside is it is a longer walk to the fields!!

The new perimeter fence was installed in January along with the new double metal gates and the pedestrian gate at the end of the Activity Building which we insisted the council added on the plans as we would need a fire exit for the activity building. The pedestrian gate is still work in progress, plan is to have an electro magnet so you press a button inside to open the gate in an emergency and a key pad code outside to get in. The double main gates now have lights along the framework that are activated by a PIR.

On 3rd January 2019 we started on the Activity Building, this required a lot of work. First job was to jet wash the inside then wait for it to dry and whilst that was slowly happening, I had costed up the price for netting and at over £1100 it was not an option we could afford. It was agreed we would purchase new for the end of the range and try and do something with the old netting for the sides. D. Shepherd had jet washed 1 of the old 'white' archery nets and then D. Wingett and J. Brewerton jet washed the 5 others, a cold wet horrible job not many would be prepared to take on, following the jet washing they were put in a tank of bleach for a few days. Although they are not perfect, they do the job. After the inside was dry it needed painting, C. Griffiths volunteered to spray the ceiling as he had a spray gun (silly boy) and then the walls needed painting by hand. I arranged a working party for March and a handful of the District came hand helped paint. Frustratingly the walls soaked the paint up and D. Wingett ended up giving all the walls a 2nd coat on his own, 3rd coat in some places. A few comments were made as to why we were painting the walls if we were covering them in netting, well firstly not all the walls were covered in Net and secondly, it was hoped the brightness of the white walls would make the netting look a little cleaner. After 110ltrs of paint it does look bright and clean now. There was still much to do to make this dark, dank, dirty building a place people would enjoy coming into. With it nearing completion, as well as housing the Archery range, it also has a table tennis table, two dart boards and the giant Jenga and sumo suits are in there too. I have to give special mention to D. Wingett, J. Brewerton, K. Jobson and K. Freeman who have put so much time and effort into getting both these buildings to where they are now.

Having eventually got Wi-Fi installed on the site, we've been planning for the future, (for when we get our own electricity supply) by trying to cut costs. We have been putting devices called Sonoff (like Hive and Nest but a 5th of the price) around the site. These allow us to remotely turn off items that are using electricity when no one is on site. The Round Barn boiler has one so now instead of coming on every day for 4 hours, anyone who wants to use the RB just needs to contact me to turn it on. We've installed one on the kitchen hot water heaters, so if users forget to turn them off when they leave, they can be turned off remotely. One on the Activity Building lights, this way they can be turned on or off remotely when accidentally left on.

After many months Park farm now has its own postal address and a road name has been given to the driveway and a new road sign 'Park Farm Drive' put up. This makes deliveries a lot easier. Our first piece of post, days after our address went live, TV Licencing bill!!!!!!

We have now installed CCTV cameras around the site. There have been a number of occasions where we have found that persons had been on site and we knew it wasn't hirers. It also protects users and our property. Signs have been put up and hopefully this will deter trespassers.

Plans to improve the lighting around the site are currently being looked into. As one of the darkest places on Earth!! users need to be safe when arriving on site at night

Next important projects are to repair and improve the perimeter fence that has been broken and the end of 2019 we plan to renovate all the toilets (Yay I hear you shout!!). However, in order to be able to get on with this we need to close the site, so from 1st November to Christmas the site will be closed. Although hirers can still use the site if they wish, there will be no toilets.

Having gained the extra bit of land next to the driveway, the 'Compound' as it is historically known is not currently very good for camping on and as we have lost so much of the car park it was decided for now to use it for parking, with a pedestrian gate cut into the ranch fencing to allowed access into the site. Eventually we plan to stop vehicles driving into the parade ground area except for loading and unloading, this will make the area safer for the youngsters.

In March we had to hire a digger to do a number of jobs. The main guttering between to 2 new apex buildings was running into the foundations, so we had to dig a hole for a soak away and we also dug a trench to run the electrics to the main gates. It was also used to scrape the top off between the workshop and LB to remove debris and weeds as it was used for other numerous jobs.

The oak tree on the drive was cut right down as it was dying and becoming dangerous, the plan was to get the remaining stump carved into a bespoke statue, but money has prevented this from happening. Also, the oak by the corner of the tower gate has had to be topped and within the next 5 years will need removing as tests carried out by a tree expert have confirmed it is rotting from the inside.

After years of comments about the Park farm website not having a calendar on it, it now has and I'm trying to keep the website fresh and up to date.

There are so many other small jobs that have been completed on top of the main two building projects that it would take forever to mention, No one has a clue how much time and effort goes into managing and constantly trying to improve this site and I could not do it without my team who work so hard behind the scenes to try and make this site a place everyone wants to come back to.

Mark Wingett - Park Farm Site Manger