

**365 DAYS
OF ADVENTURE.
HERE'S WHAT
HAPPENED...**

1st Combs Scout Group AGM



1st Combs Scout Group

Agenda for 1st Combs Scout Group AGM

Held at 1st Combs Scout Centre, Combs Wood Drive, Combs
on Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7:30pm

Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 13th May 2014

Matters Arising

Group Chairman Report

Group Treasurers Report

Section Leaders Report

Beaver Sections.

Mowgli Cub Scout

Shere Khan Cub Scouts

Scout Troop

Cougars Explorer Scouts

GSL Report

District Commissioner

Appointment and Election of Group Executive Committee

Group Chairman

Vice Chairman:

Group Secretary:

Group Treasurer

Finance Administrator

Membership Secretary

Members of the Group Executive

Appointment of Auditors

AOB

Meeting closed at

Refreshments

Minutes of 1st Combs Scout Group AGM

Held at 1st Combs Scout Centre, Combs Wood Drive, Combs

On Wednesday 13th May 2014 at 7:30 PM

Welcome and Apologies

Jonathan Pettit Chairman welcomed those present.

Apologies from Keith Thompson DC, Ros Kelly ADC, Edwin Lambert, Helen Jameson, Theresa Sparks, Sarah Thompson Gwyn Oakley.

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2013

Proposed: Gerard Brewster

Seconded: Shane Stook

Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

Group Chairman Report

Please see AGM reports pack

Group Treasurers Report

Please see AGM reports pack

Thanks go to Clive Maskell for auditing accounts.

Section Leaders Reports

Beaver Scouts Colonies (Alison Otero).

See AGM reports pack

Mowgli Cub Scout (Pat Lambert)

See AGM report pack

Shere Khan Cub Scouts (David Hart)

See AGM reports pack.

Scout Troop (David Jameson)

See AGM reports pack.

Stowmarket Dragon (David Jameson)

See AGM reports pack

Group Scout Leader Report

See AGM reports pack

DESC Peter Wood

Peter commented on the number of activities each of the sectioned had managed to get through in the year. Premises are very good. All sections are extremely strong. This is the benchmark for the district. Peter also thanked the group for the support of the District Show.

It is nice to see how many people are going through the young leader program.

Peter also wished us good luck for the Duck Race and the year ahead.

Appointment and Election of Group Executive Committee

Group Chairman GSL nominated Shane Stook

Vice Chairman: GSL

Group Secretary: GSL nominated Melvyn Frost.

Group Treasurer GSL nominated Edwin Lambert.

Finance Administrator GSL nominated Helen Jameson.

Membership Secretary GSL nominated Angela Hart.

All seconded by Jonathan Pettit

Before Edwin accepted he had to read out this piece: Under the rules of my professional body I have to inform you that I am at present Treasurer of The friends of Stowmarket Middle School - this role will not give rise to conflict as they use different banking facilities to the Group. Despite several attempts to find a replacement none has come forward and I have agreed to remain in the position until the school closes in July 2015. They are aware of my role as Treasurer to the Group.

President Gerard Brewster

Members of the Group Executive are James and Holly Trueman and Stephanie Harris

Appointment of Auditors

Edwin is hoping that Clive Maskell would audit the accounts next year.

AOB

A4 posters are available to collect from chairman.

Meeting finished at 8:25pm

Chairman's Report 2015

Introduction

Hello everyone. For those of you who don't know me, I am Shane Stook and I have the privilege of being the Chairman of the Executive Committee for 1st Combs Scout Group. I have been in this role for the past 12 months. Prior to that I was a parent representative on the Group Executive Committee and am still a Volunteer Helper, assisting with the maintenance of this wonderful facility which we have for our members and also helping with the fund raising events throughout the course of the year. I would therefore like to extend a very warm welcome to our District Commissioner, plus all members of 1st Combs Scout Group, their parents, grandparents, carers, friends & wonderful volunteers.

Executive Committee

If you weren't already aware, the role of our Executive Committee is to assist the group in matters such as fundraising and maintenance of our headquarters which in short also ensures the smooth running of the group. This helps our Leaders and their Assistants concentrate on providing an extensive range of activities for our young members to enjoy. Our team of Leaders, Assistant Leaders and their occasional helpers should all be congratulated for their dedication and continued hard work.

Volunteers

I would like to thank each and every one of you who has helped with the cleaning, gardening and maintenance tasks over the last year. We have, over the past 12 months had new people volunteer to help with the cleaning of the hall. One person in particular Mrs Caroline Knights, whose children who have since left the group, but she continues to lend us her time and support on the cleaning rota. A small but extremely dedicated group of parent volunteers have helped maintain the condition of our Headquarters and the surrounding grounds, which not only helps keep the building in good order but also means that we were able to keep maintenance costs down to an absolute minimum. My special thanks must also go out to Clive Maskell. Clive has been kind enough to audit the Group's annual accounts to ensure we comply with the Scout Organisation and the Charity Commission guidelines. Clive provides this service for us completely free of charge, which is obviously another saving which the group benefits from.

Fund Raising

It is important that we continue to organise fundraising events such as quiz nights & chocolate bingo (which have in the last year have been well attended). A lot of effort goes into running these events and they can only continue to be successful with your full support and those of your friends who wish to participate in these activities.

Our main fundraiser 'The Duck Race' is being held on June 6th at Pikes Meadow. We really need your help with the running of our flagship event. If you can please volunteer by giving just a few hours of your time to assist with setting up, packing away or even running a stall, I would be extremely pleased to see you on the day. We all club together on the day, which is a great way of meeting new people and the wonderful team who help run the whole event. Our Duck Race is most definitely on the map for local residents and their families as it's a great afternoon's entertainment which show cases 1st Combs Scout Group in all its glory. Please speak to our Leaders after this meeting for further details.

Parent Representation

As we all know too well, when our children grow up and move on, so does their parents representation on the committee. I would love to see new and enthusiastic members on our committee. In addition, if anyone feels that they would like to join us by helping out occasionally, please come and see me or one of the leaders after the meeting tonight or alternatively you can email or phone us any time for more information. Please note that you can also find us on-line at 1stcombsscoutgroup.onesuffolk.net, become a friend of the group by joining us at www.facebook.com/1stCombsScoutGroup or follow us on twitter @1stcombs.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all of our leaders and executive members for all their help and support over the last year and also for the years to come for all their hard work that helps to make 1st Combs Scout Group the success that it is.

Shane Stook

Group Chairman



1st Combs Scout Group

Registered Charity Number: 1018301

Accounts

for the year ended

31st December 2014



1st Combs Scout Group

1st Combs Scout Group

Registered Charity number 1018301

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Combs Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st December 2014, which are set out on pages 1 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the Group's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you, as trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clare Merton, ACMA
3rd May 2015



Financial Report

An initial examination of the overall figures for the year ending 31st December 2014 shows that our reserves rose by £1,882 (2013 £659 decrease).

The current account shows a surplus of £369 (2013 surplus £1,841). Section funds which increased by £1,375 (2013 decrease £2,212). It needs to be borne in mind that these specific balances include monies received as prepayments for future camps; excluding these sums the sections are all showing healthy reserves and are not giving cause for concern. 50 Club funds rose by £79 partially due to no purchases of new equipment and partially due to one prize winner being uncontactable.

Raising the awareness of parents to Gift Aid resulted in an increase of 75% in the value of our claim to HMRC. However this included a number of retrospective items and the figure for 2015 is unlikely to show the same level of increase nor income.

£1,520 was spent on new equipment for the sections including £1,179 for new tents, £200 on replacement tables and £141 on sundry small items (2013 £909)

The Group Executive approved the expenditure of funds to provide a securable area of hard standing for the Group's trailers and to 31st December 2014 £581 had been expended on these works. An additional £308 was spent on the Garden Maintenance day which included £255 for skip hire.

Funds held in The Scout Association Investment Account continued to show a poor return situation and again earned only £135 in interest (2013 £135).

A summary of significant expenditure during the year includes:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Stowmarket District Scout Council (capitation)	3,838	4,278
Heating and lighting (1)	3,442	2,392
New tentage and/or equipment	1,520	909
Insurance (2)	1,338	1,034
Major works	581	881
Minor improvements and replacements	1,424	1,119
Service charges	515	442
Water rates	302	566
	12,960	11,621
		1,339

(1) includes prior period correction following physical meter reading see 2013 accounts Note 4

(2) includes extended warranty insurance on kitchen equipment

Our major sources of income were:

Subscriptions	8,026	8,590
Duck Race	3,225	3,113
Gift Aid	1,986	1,132
Race nights	-	712
Other fundraising events	667	271
Brian Scoggins bequest	-	1,000
British Sugar plc	-	200
	13,903	15,018
		(1,115)
Excluding bequest and donation from 2013 data	13,903	13,818
		85

Trustees Annual Report

as at 31st December 2014

The group is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Groups/Districts.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organization & Rules of the Scout Association.

The accounts have been drawn up on a receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with previous years.

Approved by the trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Shane Stook
Group Chairman



1st Combs Scout Group

Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2014

Notes	December 2014	December 2013
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Scout Headquarters		
per building cost		
re-valuation per loss adjusters	311,046	311,046
Current Assets		
Current Account	11,757	11,388
Scout Association Investment Account	26,139	26,005
50 Club	583	504
Section Accounts	5,991	4,616
Sundry debtors (uncleared receipts)	0	0
Gross Assets	355,516	353,559
Current Liabilities		
Creditors (unpresented cheques)	-75	0
British gas provision	0	-975
note 4		
Total Assets	355,441	352,584
Represented by:		
General Fund	66,817	64,094
Building Fund	288,624	288,489
	355,441	352,584



Income & Expenditure
for the year ended 31st December 2014

2014 General £	2014 Building £	2013 General £	2013 Building £
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Notes

Income

Membership Fees - Gross	8,026		8,590	
Income tax reclaimed under Gift Aid	1,986		1,132	
Fundraising	7,863		6,012	
Brian Scoggins Bequest	-		1,000	
Donations	-		-	
Interest		135	-	135
Net Section Accounts	1,375		(2,212)	
Hire of Hall	276		524	
Sundry Income	396		270	
Total Income	19,921	135	15,316	135

Expenditure

Contribution to badges	894		688	
Fundraising costs	2,916		1,725	
Activities	-		0	
Equipment	1,520		909	
HQ Costs	7,159		6,749	
Group Expenses	443		301	
Administration	40		58	
Membership Fees - Rebates	1,363		1,401	
Per Capita fees to District	3,838		4,278	
Total Expenditure	18,173	0	16,110	0

Prior year charges processed through bank during current year

- -

Prior year adjustment

Net Surplus/deficit(-) Transferred to Reserves

1,748 135 -794 135

Excluding net section accounts effect	1,882 508	-659 1,553
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1st Combs Scout Group

Movement of Reserves
for the year ended 31st December 2014

	General £	Building £
at 31st December 2013	64,094	288,489
Release of PY provision	975	
Net Surplus for Year	1,748	135
at 31st December 2014	66,817	288,624



1st Combs Scout Group

Fundraising Events
for the year ended 31st December 2014

	Income	Costs	Profit	2013
	£	£	£	£
General Fund				
Duck Race	4,305	(1,079)	3,225	3,113
50 Club	228	(149)	79	191
Bingo	298	(87)	210	110
Race Night(s)	-	-	-	712
Group Camp	1,525	(1,458)	67	-
Sponsored Walk	818	(10)	808	0
Other Fund Raising	565	(109)	456	161
	7,738	(2,892)	4,846	4,286



1st Combs Scout Group

Section Accounts
for the year ended 31st December 2014

	B/f Bank & Cash		Total B/f	Current year movements			C/f	Bank	Due from group T3 rebate	Cash	Total
				from group	other income	expenses					
Scouts	2,348.60	-	2,348.60	634.81	10,382.28	(9,666.95)	3,698.74	3,698.74	-	-	3,698.74
Cubs	1,907.00	-	1,907.00	455.08	961.00	(1,360.95)	1,962.13	1,962.13	-	-	1,962.13
Beavers	360.32	-	360.32	345.00	177.71	(553.23)	329.80	329.80	-	-	329.80
Total	4,615.92		4,615.92	1,434.89	11,520.99	(11,581.13)	5,990.67	5,990.67	-	-	5,990.67



1st Combs Scout Group

Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 31st December 2014

	Note	General £	Building £
Asset & Liabilities Brought Forward		33,011	8,526
Cash b/f		33,011	8,526
Income Receipts			
Membership Fees - Gross		8,026	
Income tax reclaimed under Gift Aid		1,986	
Fundraising		7,863	
Grants		0	
Donations		0	
Interest		0	135
Net Section Accounts		1,375	
Hire of Hall		276	
Sundry Income		396	
Total Receipts		19,921	135
Expenditure			
Prior year adjustment		0	
Contribution to badges		894	
Fundraising Costs		2,916	
Activities		-	
Equipment		1,520	
HQ Costs		7,159	
Group Expenses		443	
Administration		40	
Membership Fees - Rebates		1,363	
Per Capita fee to District		3,838	
		18,173	
Capital Expenditure			
New Headquarters		0	0
Total Expenditure		18,173	0
Balance on Funds Carried Forward		34,759	8,661
Assets & Liabilities Carried Forward			
Debtors		0	
Cash		35,809	8,661
British Gas provision		0	
Net Cash Carried Forward		35,809	8,661



1st Combs Scout Group

Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 31st December 2014

Notes

1 There was no capital expenditure on Group HQ in the year.

2 Bank & Cash was not segregated into accounts specially designated by fund. A reconciliation of the actual cash balances against cash attributable to funds is shown below:

	£
General Fund Cash	35,809
Building Fund Cash	8,661
Total	<u>44,470</u>

Current Account	11,757
Scout Association	26,139
Investment Account	
Debtors	0
50 Club	583
Section Accounts	5,991
	<u>44,470</u>

3 On the balance sheet (page 3) the net assets are not split by fund, and show the headquarters capitalized. A reconciliation with the net cash carried forward is shown:

	£
General Fund Cash c/f	35,809
Building Fund Cash c/f	8,661
Scout Headquarters	311,046
Net Asset per Balance Sheet	<u>355,516</u>



1st Combs Scout Group

**Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st December 2014**

Notes

- 1 These accounts have been prepared on a multiple fund payments and receipts basis which is consistent with the basis of previous years. This is allowed under section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 as the total gross income for the year does not exceed £100,000.
- 2 The group had no significant contingent liabilities falling due in 2014
- 3 Sundry income includes sale of badges and scarves

Tuesday and Wednesday Beaver Scouts 2015

Another fun and active year has been enjoyed by both Beaver colonies.

We still average 18-20 Beavers per session. The intake of Beavers on the waiting list runs smoothly. There are a number who are 7 years old; before they are added to the list, this is due to ones already in the Beaver group telling their friends about it. Although they don't take preferences over the waiting list we try them as soon as possible.

Activities Beavers have taken part in this last year are:

- 22-7-14 End of term outing to Playworld.
- 30-9-14 Joint evening at Needham Lake as part of the Outdoor Challenge badge.
- 11-10-14 District Event to Bewilderwood in Norfolk. Enjoyed by all.
- 6-12-14 A number of the Beavers came to the Scout show and had a good time.
- 17-12-14 Both colonies combined for a Christmas party.
- 14-3-15 District 999 Badge Day at Elmswell Community centre. Beavers who went gained their Safety & First aid badges.
- 26-4-15 St George's Day parade.
- 28/29-4-15 Travelled by train to Ipswich to visit a Buddhist centre which was very interesting hearing about who Buddha was and taking part in meditation and chanting. Prior to the visit the Beavers went to McDonalds.

Badges the Beavers have worked on this last year are: Outdoor, Global Fitness & Promise Challenge badges, Create, Healthy Eating, Emergency Aid stage 1&2 and Faith Activity badges

Congratulations to Joshua who has gained the 'Bronze Award' which is the highest award given in Beaver Scouts.

We would like to thank the Grandparents of Craig, Bev & Steve for coming in to do Emergency Aid with the Beavers. Also Mary Durrant and David Jameson for their help.

We look forward to another successful year.

From Beaver Leaders

Alison, Angela, Sarah, Helen and Mark

Mowgli Pack Report 2015

Another varied year, the Cubs have been busy with badges, camps and other activities

The Cubs have been working towards the various challenge badges. We have had international, fitness and rounder's evenings, a pioneering evening at Haughley Park and a visit from the Guide Dogs.

We have 4 Cubs that have achieved their Silver Chief Scout Award the highest award for Cubs. We have completed other badges:

- Map reader
- Fire Safety
- Martial Arts
- Scientist
- Disability – Made easy by one of our Cubs support worker Nicole who helped us and arranged for several of her contacts to come and do various sessions.
- Hikes and nights away;

Last year if the Cubs attended every camp and sleepover they had the opportunity of earning 5 nights away.

In September we had a couple of evenings where the Cubs were taught about self-defence and personal safety, from a police self-defence trainer.

We had a visit to the Stowmarket fire station where they were told about fire safety and what to do to prevent having a fire break out in the home. The Leading Fire Officer even showed off the blues and twos; we were told by the other officers that he didn't usually do this and that it was because our Cubs were so well behaved. We were also told that we were always welcome to visit.

Over the year we have tried to have at least two nights a term where we join together with Shere Khan Pack.

We have had joint camps and sleepovers with Shere Khan Pack and hope to have many more. Our sleepover in February coincided with the Chinese New Year so during the weekend we made Chinese lanterns, sampled Chinese food and learnt to sing a Chinese song (oh and we burned Edwin's dragon!)

Cubs attended District Camp, Fun Night, and Challenge Camp.

Of course, Cubs would not be Cubs without the usual cooking, tasting, and wide games throughout the year.

would like to say thank you to Chris for producing this report for me and supporting me as I take over the role as Akela. Also Robbie who turns up without fail and the Young Leaders without them Cubs would not be as successful as it is. I would also like to make a special mention about Theresa who has had to step down from the position of Akela in March due to work and family commitments. Over the years as Akela she has put lot into Cubs and will be missed as she had a way of interacting with the Cubs and made their experience fun. I hope I manage to do the same in the future.

Leaders

Pat Lambert CSL, and

Chris Frost ACSL, Luc Mathlin ACSL, Robbie Platt ACSL

Young Leaders

Josh Elford, Mark Lennon, Will Thurston, Edward Terry

Shere Khan Cub Pack Report 2015

Another year of activity for the cubs..!

Lots of camping this year, first up the eagerly awaited group camp which was a great success, unfortunately I was unable to attend due to illness, then followed District Cub camp at Athlington Hall with a carnival theme and the older cubs attending challenge camp. During the winter we had a sleepover at the hall for bonfire night and another in February for Chinese New Year both joint with Mowgli pack. We are again looking forward to district and challenge camp and will be having a joint pack holiday at Thriftwood in August

Over the year we completed work on chef, home help, home safety and camper badges, as well as work towards Global, Community, Fitness and Promise Challenge badges. This year we have started fire safety, road safety, disability awareness and are starting to implement the new Challenge Awards. Each term we have also had two joint nights with Mowgli which makes the cubs and leaders familiar with each other when we have camps or sleepovers

We finished the summer term with a joint evening at Haugley Park to celebrate the memory of Gary involving both cubs and parents which was a great success and a repeat is planned for this summer

District activity day in February provided great variety of activities and the cubs had an action packed day with similar to come at district fun night

In March we visited Tesco's for a 'farm to fork' evening where the cubs got to see behind the scenes of how a supermarket works and the opportunity to taste cheeses fruit and breads; they also got a badge and goody bag to take away. Also in march we visited the fire station for another successful if damp evening!

We have a young pack of 26 cubs at the moment with only one 10 year old, so no-one going to scouts for a while.

Finally I'd like to thank all the team, John. Unfortunately Carol has been unable to help for the last two terms due to work commitments but she is hoping to return shortly. We were joined by Caroline and Paul in the autumn who have brought great enthusiasm and new ideas to the team. The explorers Hayley and Abi who sadly will be leaving for university and will be greatly missed and fellow explorer Josh

Leaders

Sarah Thompson CSL

John Mcdonald ACSL, Caroline southgate, Paul Southgate, Carol Mitson

Young Leaders

Abi Frost, Hayley Whipps, Josh Fisher



1ST Combs Scout Troop. A.G.M. Report 2015

Once again we have had a very busy but fun and rewarding year. Below is a small account of some of the Activities we have done over the last 12 months.

In May the Group held a Group Camp at Bradfield Campsite, All sections from Beaver through to the Explorers attended a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. We did air rifles archery and assault course followed by team games on the Saturday. We held a campfire in the evening and the D.C. and County Commissioner were present. Emily was presented with her Queen Scout Award.

June saw us attend the Scout District Camp. This was held at Hallowtree Campsite and along with the usual activities on a District Camp the Scouts also had the opportunity to go sailing or kayaking, which several of our Scouts did.

We held our own P.L. Camp in July. The Scouts were self sufficient for the weekend with us Leader's keeping a watchful eye from a distance. They were also taught particular skills throughout the weekend.

Our Summer Camp was at the Norjam Jamboree in Norfolk. It was a joint camp with the Explorers. 47 of us went in total. It was a full week of packed activities from 9am till 10pm. It was great we hardly saw the Scouts all week! Only at meal times to be fed and watered. We had a day trip out to Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach and to finish the week we all finished off with some sailing on the Norfolk Broads. Special thanks to Dave Heath for transporting most of our equipment to and from camp.

In the autumn term we concentrated more on different aspects of the Award Work, we held nights on first aid, paracord work making bracelets, woggles and key ring fobs. We did some soap carving. We held a night on drugs, smoking and Alcohol (we enjoyed that one!) We also had nights on the Diversity in Scouting, senses night and a wide game night.

We held a Halloween Camp at Haughley Park and also another nights Camp followed by a Hike Day and sleepover. Both were terrific weekends.

We attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade, the District Carol Service and also attended and watched the very energetic District Scout Show at the Regal.

So far in 2015 we have continued with a lot of Award work, tin foil modelling (creative challenge), circuit training (fitness challenge), first aid (outdoor & outdoor + challenge). We did a couple of craft nights making things for Mothering Sunday, these included Glass Etching, flower Pot decorating an planting bulbs (bet the mums appreciated those). We also did paracord work. (Creative challenge). We attended a Sunday morning at H.P. helping with the District clear some brush within the wood. (Community challenge).

We have held 2 Camps, 1 at the end of February. This was held in the Survival Area in the wood at H.P. A different location which the Scouts thoroughly enjoyed. Throughout the weekend the Scouts skinned and gutted rabbits and then made burgers out of the flesh and then made very small work eating them! (Once cooked)

Our 2nd camp was at H.P. in the paddock area. Our main activity on the Saturday was helping with the District Woodland clear up day. James the Estate manager set us a task of clearing and moving brush that he had chopped down over the winter. The 26 Scouts and 2 Explorers all worked extremely hard throughout the day and even the storm showers we had didn't deter them. Needless to say they slept very soundly that night. On the Sunday morning we started our Air Rifle Master at Arms Activity Badge.

For this year's Summer Camp we are taking the Scouts and Explorer Scouts to Gilwell Park. The week will again consist of an activity filled week including, zip wire, crate stacking, 3 g swing, Jacobs ladder, archery, raft building, climbing, kayaking, grass sledging, the gauntlet and swimming.

The Scout Association in their wisdom have once again changed all the criteria for Awards and Badges so this year we will be finishing off old badges and moving over to the new ones as the year progresses, so for a while there will be a mish mash of badges on the Scouts uniforms. Let's hope that this transition goes better than the New Compass system the Association has set up for all our members!!

A big thanks to all the Leaders, Young Leaders and Exec for the continued help and support you have given throughout the year.

Next year we are going to Croatia for our Summer Camp. 30 have signed up for the trip which for the first time will include flying to our destination. We will need to do some fund raising for this trip so keep a lookout for upcoming events.

David Jameson

1st Combs Scout Leader



COMBS COUGARS E.S.U. REPORT 2015

The following report is from excerpts written by some of the Explorer Scouts in the Unit.

Our main focus for the Summer was on our Summer Camp with the Scout Troop. We went to the Norjam Jamboree near Norwich. In total 47 of us went and joined in with 7000 other Scouts/ Explorer Scouts and Guides for a fun packed week. Norjam has been one of the highlights of our Scouting time. It was one of the most thrilling camps we have been on. What we enjoyed most was the lovely atmosphere, the opening and closing ceremony. We discovered new and non boring ways of doing a Scouts Own and celebrating St George's Day. We had a day trip to the Pleasure Beach at Great Yarmouth. The evening entertainment was great as there was a Club for 14+ yr olds only. The merchandise was good (but sold out very quickly) Terrific crafts to do in the Craft barn. We also got to final of Norjam's Got Talent.

September - December Term

This term was full of different Activities; we had a Search and Rescue Night. Some Explorers were lost and injured in Combs wood, (not literally) we had to find them, treat their injuries and get them out of the wood. It was a fun, exciting, challenging and practical night.

We had a fun & hilarious camp at Hallowtree. We had a long walk along the Nacton Shores to the Orwell Bridge, had a rifle shooting session and also a couple of great campfires. We also did some campsite work with the Hallowtree Service Team on the Sunday morning resulting in us not being charged for the Rifle Shooting. (Result!)

Our big project for the term was the Silhouette Painting we have done in the HQ. It was something very different for us to do and we believe it makes the Hall more cheery and appealing. Everyone took part and really enjoyed doing it.

In December we had a night building and decorating Ginger Bread Houses. A fun, enjoyable and messy night. Some could have decorated more if they hadn't have eaten most of the sweets.

To finish the year we held our Traditional Christmas meal and Sleepover night. David, Gwyn and Paul spent the day decorating the HQ and cooking a fantastic Christmas Dinner. After dinner we handed out the Secret Santa gifts, played silly games and generally had a great time. Thankyou to the Leaders for putting on another great Night.

January – May Term

In January we had a successful cook night making burgers and chips. We also had a chip hike and decided that Stowupland Chippy has the best chips!

In February we had a look at the New Badges and everyone managed to achieve at least one badge.

We had a good Photo Quiz Night organized by Matt. We also made some Chinese Spring Rolls for the Chinese New Year.

In March we learnt about Japan as Megan (who ran the night) is going to the World Jamboree in Japan in the Summer. Max and Josh are also going.

We have also had a good night 10 Pin Bowling in Ipswich.

Group Scout Leaders AGM Report 2015

The section reports prove that all members in the sections have enjoyed yet another fun packed and exciting year. These programmes offer the young people the chance to develop themselves into, confident and responsible members of our society. The leaders of the sections have proved year on year that they are capable of delivering, interesting and exciting subjects that keep the beavers, cubs and scouts wanting more.

This constant demand to deliver these adventurous programmes does stretch the imagination and energies of the leadership teams in all of the sections.

Our leadership teams have undergone a bit of a change we have said goodbye to Theresa Sparkes as the Akela for the Monday night Cub Scout pack but Pat Lambert has agreed to take on the role as the Akela for Monday night cubs. We have welcomed into the fold for cubs, Luc Mathlin, to the Monday night cubs and Caroline and Paul Southgate to the Thursday night pack.

We have some leaders in training and hopefully we will be seeing on or two wood badges being awarded this year.

The Group Executive committee has continued to support the group and myself in a number of ways, in not only running funds but also in managing this building. This helps to provide new equipment, replacing old equipment which has worn out gets damaged during any of the many activities the sections undertake. This continuous support enables the group to have these wonderful facilities we have here in the HQ and gives the right equipment our young members deserve.

We held a chocolate bingo session at Easter this is an enjoyable event run, mainly for the children.

The annual Duck Race will take place on Saturday 6th June and this year our main fund raiser will be raising funds to replace one of our trailers. It will also go towards helping us to buy some plants and shrubs to improve the flower beds in the grounds around the building which, are in need of a bit of TLC.

Now as I near the end of my final GSL's AGM report I need to thank, all of the leaders, their assistants and helpers for all of their hard work, for their support which without my job as group scout leader would be a lot harder. I would like to thank our executive committee for their support, for their hard work in the running of this group. They have been led by our competent hardworking Chairperson Shane Stook, in the past year has shown he is a good chairperson and a good loyal supporter to 1st Combs.

My thanks also go to Secretary Mel Frost and our Treasurer Edwin Lambert, without all of these people mentioned, my life as a GSL would be extremely difficult and the group would not be able to function. Indeed in the last year I have had to absent from a number of executive meetings, I am told they are a lot shorter when I'm not there.

I will be standing down as GSL in December this year and while I have been GSL my wife Angela has been a constant support to me, she has had to be very understanding and not least very patient. I would like to thank her for her continuous support that enabled me to do what I have done, in my role as Group Scout Leader. I hope that you will give your continuous support to who ever take over from me as GSL in the future

Thank you all I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

David Hart

Group Scout leader.