

GSL Report AGM 9th June 2018

I think we can consider this another successful year for the 89th.

We have 138 young people in the sections, plus 16 in the associated Explorer section. This is a little lower than my report for last year's AGM. At that point both of our Scout sections were in a transition stage, with almost a complete change in leaders across both sections. That refresh of section and assistant leaders has been fantastic for all the young people and we now have a solid base to build on over the coming years.

Our waiting list is still very full; however, we are slowly bringing this under control because of our policy to not add anyone over the age of 4 to the list. From the trend we are seeing it looks as if all those that we do take onto our list will be offered a place in Beavers around the time they turn 6 years of age.

Last year

The sections all ran a full program throughout the year, all our young people were offered the opportunity to camp overnight at least once and many more than that. Several of the Scouts took part in the Annual Three Towers Hike and we had a strong team of Cubs and Scouts taking part in the District swimming gala last November. The onsite activities; peg wall, aerial runway, climbing wall, mine etc. were all very busy throughout the year.

Leaders

As mentioned above the Scout sections are in a much stronger state than they have been for several years although we could do with another assistant leader for both sections, in particular Knight troop on a Monday evening.

The Cub packs continue to be strong and are full to capacity as always. John Potter the section leader for Panther pack on a Tuesday evening is due to step down next December from the post he has held for probably more years than he cares to remember. We are currently working with one of the Beaver section leaders to move up into John's post which will provide a good level of continuity.

Lion Pack on a Thursday has a solid leader team which is working very well.

With one of our Beaver leaders likely to move to Cubs we are looking to find a replacement volunteer for this position – Over the next few months we will be talking to existing assistant Beaver leaders, parents of current Beavers and parents of those young children on the waiting list in our efforts to fill this important role.

Apart from volunteers to fill specific roles we are always very happy to hear from anyone who has time to spare to help us – not just directly with the sections and their activities but with any aspect of a busy Group.

Activity Permits

Four members of the Leader and Exec team gained permits for the climbing wall last year which means that activity is now fully available.

Very recently two more leaders were recommended for their Nights Away permit which makes arranging overnight camping easier.

As always, the Group would benefit from additional volunteers to help out with activities such as the mine and the climbing wall. These activities are booked not only by our young people but by Scouting and Guiding sections from various districts and by a variety of adult groups. These bookings are an important source of income to us and the more adults that can run these activities the easier it is for all and opens additional opportunities for fundraising.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact either myself or Robin Kent for more information.

Lastly

I would like to thank all the members of the Executive committee for their hard work this past year – the Exec team ably led by Robin Kent has done a fabulous job of keeping the group running. Their efficiency allows the leaders to spend all their time delivering a first-class program of activities to our young members shielding them from the “business” part of keeping a busy group afloat.

Without the volunteers; leaders, assistant leaders and helpers who turn up regularly to work with our young people, who dream up ideas to entertain, to educate, to open minds, and offer opportunities to them to experience things that they don't get from school or at home, the 89th Scout Group would not exist. You do such an amazing job, putting smiles on their faces as you stretch their boundaries and give them skills that they will remember and use throughout their lives.

Thankyou

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