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Akela's Shout

The Newsletter for the 9th Dag Scout Group
1999 • Issue 8
July
Editor: Baggy

Parents & Guardians – Have you completed the slip?

Your feedback is urgently required. Please complete and return the slip at the end.

Akela's Chat by Akela

Hi everyone, now we have the busy month of June out of the way, we can settle down for a quiet couple of months.

Athlete's Badge was our first event in June. 7 cubs arrived and all gained at least 1st Stage of this badge.

Football came next and the boys all enjoyed their matches. The scouts came 2nd overall but there were no final placings for the cubs or beavers.

Sports Day was our last event and we had 6 cubs and 5 scouts turn up. Nearly all gained certificates in one event or another. In the Invitation Mile (Mr. Sparrow did say he would run in it but chickened out at the last moment!) Greg McDonald came 1st and Billy McDonald came 3rd. Both of these lads are scouts so well done to you two.

Well done to everyone who took part in all of the above events.

See you soon

Akela.

Upcoming Events

Beaver Section

Saturday 17th July

Beaver Fun Day: This will be at Hargreaves. More details to follow.

Cub Section

&

Scout Section

No 'events' this month. Don't forget the upcoming Pack Holiday for the cubs though (late August).

News and Information

Cub Section

Please note that the balance of the Camp Money must be paid in by the 1st August.

All Sections

The boys and girls from the other two groups have fitted in well and our boys have made them welcome.

The church is meeting in the 1st week of July to discuss our rent. Mr. T. and I may have to go and see the vicar regarding this. It may mean an increase in the subs, but I will let you know the outcome in August.

Five – a – Side

by Billy McDonald and Thomas Robertson

We would like to say Thank You to all the people who turned up at the five-a-side. To all the people who did turn up, and put the 9th Dagenham into 2nd position, considering you were playing Venture Scouts for the final and they had to foul to win you did very well Unfortunately they beat us 2-0. It was a close game and silly shots went in. So anyway, thank you for turning up.

Team Players – B. McDonald, G.McDonald, L.Goldsmith, J.Benett, T.Robertson, J.Wells, S.Govinden.

Star Player – G.McDonald

(*They were not quite Venture Scouts, but they were tall lads! For those of you who don't know, Thomas and Billy were writing about the recent Scout 5-a-side competition. All of those attended played their heart out and managed to achieve an excellent 2nd place overall in the district. Well Done. Baggy*).

Baggy's Bit

This month the cub section has 'invaded' the newsletter, with details on what they have been doing recently and

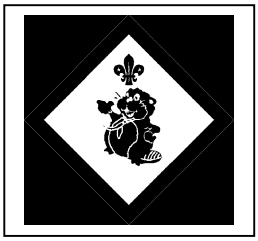
views from the cubs themselves. Hopefully next month I can bring you some information on the goings-on in either the Beaver Colony or the Scout Troop.

Lets start with the results of last months competition. The Beaver Scout Motto is "Fun and Friends" as correctly stated by Daryl and Daniel. Well Done. The Koran is important to those who follow Islam, thank you to Lewis for the answer. And Callum came up with the correct dates for the four main 'Saints Days' which are

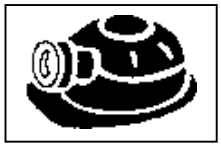
St. George - April 23rd
St. Patrick - March 17th
St. David - March 1st
St. Andrew - November 30th

This months competition is nice and simple. Just tell me what the badges below are for;

Beaver Section



Cub Section | Scout Section



"Who's that old bloke?" by Baggy

Recently the cub section has been working its way towards gaining their Local Historian activity badge. These are the badges that the cubs wear on their right arm. They are able to undertake any of the badges that they wish, and they cover a wide variety of hobbies, pastimes and scouting skills.

The requirements for the Local Historian badge are detailed in the Cub Handbook, but these are the ones that our cubs have been doing;

Find out about someone who lived in or near your town who was famous, or visit and find out about a famous old building..... Make a log book or scrap book and discuss what you have found with the examiner.

Find out the meaning of, and collect pictures of ... your District coat of arms. Tell the examiner how many different places you have seen the coat of arms displayed.

Choose two different locations in your area such as a road, park, field, hill, lake, stream and find out how they got their names.

During the course of the past two weeks the cubs have been learning about famous people that have lived/worked/were born in Barking & Dagenham. Although initially it reads like the England '66 World Cup team, there are a few surprising names. As is to be expected the cubs spent a lot of the time with questions like "Who?", "What did he do then?" and "Never heard of her!" to which the usual response is "Ask your parents, they'll know".

They have also been learning about the borough's coat of arms, and how all the little details originated and what they stand for. The cubs spent a long time looking over old photographs of the local area and local people and seemed very interested. We had to ask the antiquated Mr. T. to help explain a few things though, like trams and rationing.

After a few weeks of soaking up all that information the cubs were then presented with a test in order to gauge how much they had actually learnt.

We hope to organize a trip to Valence House in the near future in order to complete the badge, so look out for any upcoming details.

Pack Night Program by Baggy

Every Tuesday night is planned out in meticulous detail, months in advance (or so the leaders would have the cubs believe. In reality one of the most important skills a cub leader can have is the ability to 'make things up as they go along'). Each Pack Night (the group of cubs is called a Pack, the beavers meet in Colony and the scouts in a Troop) follows a basic program.

We begin at 6 with the opening ceremony of Grand Howl and Flagbreak, followed by Inspection. The cubs then get changed ready for a game. The game will typically last until around 6:45 where we stop and have a short break and the cubs get a drink & biscuits. Occasionally we use this time to write short pieces for the newsletter. We then launch into some scout 'work' of some description. This may last up until around 7:20 whereupon we jump into another set of games. At around 7:55 we get changed back into our uniform, give out certificates/badges and information and then have the closing Grand Howl and Flagdown.

Now looking at the program it may seem that we play around 1 hr of games, but I stress that this period involves a lot more than just 'playing football'. The first thing is that I only allow one game of 'football type' (and the way I play games this could bear no relation to 'normal' football whatsoever!) every 2 or 3 weeks. The cubs do have their favourite games, and we do play them on a regular basis, but not every week! I have always said to the cubs, "if you want to play football every week then go and join a football club". They learn to enjoy a wide variety of games, and many of these now involve various aspects of scouting. Almost every other game actually teaches them some scouting or social skill so they are really actually doing 'work' most of the time (But don't tell them that! They enjoy themselves so much they don't actually realise they are learning something).

The cubs have now got used to the way the program works and no longer moan or complain about doing 'work' . Because of the way we present it they simply enjoy it and get stuck in. Some of the 'games' that we now play regularly involve map signs, compass, knotting, pioneering, first aid, tracking signs and others. As a result the cubs have become much more proficient in these scouting skills.

Views from the Cubs

This month I would like to present some short pieces that our cubs have produced for the newsletter on a variety of topics.

Scott Evans writes "I like cubs because I think the games are good & fun. I think cubs are good because we play football which I like and we play hokkle *(? Hockey? Baggy.)* & baseball. When this shuts we have a tuck shop. I like this club because I can meet lots of friends."

Chris Sallis has this to say regarding our two scout 'helpers'. "Baloo is a great leader and so is Kaa but my favourite one is Baloo. Kaa is just as good but not quite my favourite like Baloo. Baloo is fun and plays my favourite games with my friends and Kaa is funny. Baloo has a nice personality along with Kaa too."

Matthew Sallis "One early Saturday morning the 9th Dagenham went to a football match. We played the 8th Barking first. They whopped us because Christopher our goally let in 3 goals. One was a nutmegged goal, the other 2 were normal shots."

Christopher Barret "On one Friday we done the Athletes badge. What we done was fun"

Bradley McGuiness "A couple of weeks ago we went to Thriftwood for a district camp. It was great. I slept in a dormitory, some people slept in tents. It was great fun"

Billy Marbe wrote a piece about Sports Day. "At Sports Day there were three field events, High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Putt. I got 1st place at Shot Putt and 3rd place at Long Jump."

Christopher Eve (our bowlegged goalie!). "There are all sorts of badges and here are a few activities badges." Sorry I couldn't fit in your blinding drawings that accompanied your piece Chris.

I think you can tell that the following three cubs were sitting together on Tuesday. They certainly enjoyed a lively (and well humoured) debate!

Tracey Martin writes "Every girl that wants to join cubs can join even if the boys do not like it"

Scott Andrew replies with "I think NO girls are allowed in cubs because they have Girl Guides and Brownies. So boy's have cubs and girls have Brownies and Girl Guides."

Rebecca Ratford retaliates with "I think any girl should be allowed to join cubs and I think no boys should be allowed in cubs because they get on your nerves."

Argue with that one! On a serious note though, the two girls have fitted in with the rest of the cubs very easily. There have been no problems whatsoever.

The next two pieces are a masterpiece of abstract thought (or perhaps they were too busy talking and did not get time to finish).

Callum Sparrow leads with "On Saturday" and **Jimmy** follows with "When it was Saturday". As I said lads, I promise to include your pieces in the newsletter.

Parents/Guardians

It has been suggested that very few parents/guardians actually read Akela's Shout. Now this is a problem in itself in that the monthly newsletter contains all the information on upcoming events, reports on past events and other details on what is going on within **your** scout group.

However there may also be a deeper problem in that, it has been suggested, that perhaps you are not interested in what is happening within the scout group, and therefore what your son/daughter is doing.

Personally I believe (hope?) that this is not the case.

As a result I would like every parent/guardian to complete, sign and return the slip below by next Tuesday please.

I would like to think that the parents of our scouts are interested and involved with the scout group, and care deeply about how it is run, and about how much their children can gain from Scouting.

If you have any additional comments you wish to make please feel free to speak to any of the leaders, or to hand in a piece that I will include in the next newsletter.

I, Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... (Parent/Guardian)

Sign to say that I: (Please tick those that apply)

Have read the July issue of Akela's Shout.

Have read past issues of Akela's Shout

Find Akela's Shout to be a useful newsletter

Would like to suggest an improvement (Please Specify or Talk to a Leader)

Signed ..... Date: .....