

1st Stotfold Ridgway Scout Troop AGM report 2005

What are the most memorable moments of the year? Could it be when Michael Stone managed a whole camp without hurting himself? Or when I got a group of Scouts lost on a night hike? Or maybe when the whole group of Scouts got onto a train, realising at the next stop that it was going in the wrong direction?

We have had many experiences over the last year and have done an enormous amount of activities. In fact, I filled 2 pages just writing a list of them. Below are a few details of some of the highlights.

Big activities

We took part in the event run by the Britannia Flying Club, called **Young Eagles**. This was set up to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to fly in a plane. We took nearly 50 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to the event, and they all had a 15 minute flight in a plane, as well as visiting the air museum and birds of prey centre.



Inter@ctive was run for a second time. This was an activity day at the Scout Hut and guide building where we offered both Scouts and Guides the chance to have a go at karting, biking, archery, shooting, sumo suits, backwoods cooking, bouncy castle, computer games, radio presenting, table tennis, snooker and lots of other activities. The event was organised and run by 5 Scouts and 5 Guides.



For a second year running we hosted a weekend of communications activities at the Stotfold Scout Hut with the catchy name of **Communications weekend**. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came along and were able to talk to Scouts all over the world. The event was run at the same time as the Jamboree on the air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the internet (JOTI), so Scouts all over the world were doing the same thing. We were able to talk to other Scouts by internet chat, amateur radio, internet voice chat, email and text message. The furthest we reached was New Zealand.



In trying to harness the music talent of the Scouts we ran the **Battle of the Bands** for a second year. This was an evening where Scouts could form their own bands and perform on the stage in the Scout Hut. 3 bands performed and we finished the evening with some karaoke.



In aid of Comic Relief we ran our very successful **Jail break** event. 4 teams were driven out to a secret location and then asked to get as far away as they could in 3 hours. Scouts also had to use their map reading skills to photograph themselves at various suggested landmarks along the way. All teams also had to radio back with their position every 30 minutes. Several hundred pounds was raised for Comic Relief.



Big Bother was one of our biggest events in the last year and proved to be very successful. 8 Scouts including 2 from Shefford Scouts and one from Biggleswade Scouts, entered our own version of Channel 4's Big Brother. They were locked away in a sectioned off part of the Scout Hut for 3 days and were live on webcam and audio throughout the event. The housemates had to cook for themselves and complete various tasks throughout the event. The public could vote for who they wished to save via text, phone, email and our online vote. We had over 6000 unique visits to our website over the event, and over 1000 votes. The event was made a lot bigger by the excellent coverage by Chiltern Radio and BBC online.



Music weekend 2005. This is the 3rd time we have run this great event which stretches the very little musical talent of the Scout leaders and hosts a range of music activities for the Scouts to take part in. Scouts were able to record their own music single and receive their own CD at the end. The Sunday consisted of a radio theme and Scouts could host their own 30 minute radio show with the help of Little Miss G and Paul (News) Hutchinson from Chiltern radio.



The Scout Association hosted a celebrity football match at Queens Park Rangers football ground called the **Big Kickabout**. We took 15 Scouts along to watch the mascots football match, pro footballers match and celebrity football match. We also saw many celebrities and other entertainers. We had a brilliant spot in the ground where all the celebrities went first to sign autographs. After the event we had a look round the sights of London by getting onto trains in the wrong direction, and walking great distances.



Evening Activities

In our evenings we have had many different themes and events. We try to make sure that we cover all of the different programme zones needed in a Scout programme.

Evening Troop nights have included visits to the Rocknasium climbing facility, Bowling in Stevenage, Wide games and biking at Chicksands as well as Biking and swimming at the Letchworth Leisure Centre. Due to the wide range of facilities we have at Stotfold Scout HQ, we have been able to run activities like Archery, Shooting, IT nights, Film nights, Hockey, Rafting and water fights. We have also run evenings on the theme of Robot wars, where Scouts have to build their own fighting machines round a radio controlled car. We have had more Ready Steady Cook nights where Scouts are given ingredients and have to make a meal out of them.

Recently we have had a couple of nights where Scouts have made their own one minute movies. The results of their efforts can be found on our website.

Other activities have included Kart building, Treasure hunt, Fitness challenge, Games nights, Christmas party, District quiz, creative nights, conservation and more..

We also entered the District Shooting competition where we gained 5th and 7th place.

Camps

We have run 11 camps in the last 12 months. Some using the wide range of facilities at the Stotfold Scout Hut, and others mixing with thousands of other Scouts at national camps like Gilwell Winter camp and Essex 2004 Jamboree.

Bigjam District camp was run again in 2004 and contained lots of activities on the theme of the Olympics. All of the Scout Groups competed in lots of activities and had a lot of fun in the process. It was good to be camping as a group where Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers could mix together.

August camp was run again for those Scouts that had not gained their Outdoor Challenge badge. Scouts had to fend for themselves and take part in a range of activities.

For **summer camp** this year we attended the Essex Jamboree 2004. This was a large camp that contained 6000 Scouts from all over the world. It was an excellent camp where Scouts were given the opportunity to take part in hundreds of activities. We entered our own made on the spot band into a battle of the bands contest and came second. We spent a day at Clacton beach where we taught the Scouts how to make sandcastles (A skill that many lacked) and how to eat an octopus.



Scout hut activity camp was run again. This is a camp at the Stotfold Scout hut where we have all of the equipment from the Children in Need games night left out to be used.

Gilwell did it again by hosting another excellent **Gilwell Winter camp**. This camp in January may get chilly, but there are lots of activities and discos to keep the Scouts warm.

District survival camp was run again at Boyd field this year. Eight of our Scouts attended and managed to survive through the wind and rain underneath their shelter.

Summary

The last year has been an interesting one that has stretched the time constraints of the leaders. I would like to thank Nick Peace for all his help in running the Troop as assistant leader. I would also like to thank our 2 helpers, Brian Way and Peter Evans who have put in a lot of time in helping and running activities in the past year. We have a new helper joining us, Paul Hutchinson has been assisting us on a Tuesday evening and we are pleased to have him involved. Another big thank you is needed for Clare Kilby, who keeps our money in order and has to cope with money coming in from all the activities we run.

We have an excellent team of leaders that are all working together to continue to deliver a wide and varied programme that will teach the young people lots of new skills and help to develop them into better citizens of tomorrow. Let's hope that we can still achieve this during the next year.

If you want to find out more about any of the activities we have done, check out our website at www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway

Here's to more fun and adventure over the next year.

Charles Kilby
Scout Leader