

# Northampton District Beaver Scouts



Section Meeting : 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Venue : Scout Shop 8pm

## Minutes

Present : ADC Beavers - Chris Robinson-Smith, Harry Whiting (County Leader)

(16) Representatives from:

1 <sup>st</sup> H	1 <sup>st</sup> W (Both colonies)
4 <sup>th</sup> N (Christchurch)	11 <sup>th</sup> N (Weston Favell)
13 <sup>th</sup> N (St Marys)	16 <sup>th</sup> N (Duston)
36 <sup>th</sup> N (St. Matthews)	38 <sup>th</sup> N (Moulton)
43 <sup>rd</sup> N	47 <sup>th</sup> N (Duston)
49 <sup>th</sup> N	50 <sup>th</sup> N (Hunsbury)

Apologies from:

13 <sup>th</sup> N (St Marys) (Amy F-G)	22 <sup>nd</sup> N (Whitehills) Jessica B
34 <sup>th</sup> N (Kingsthorpe) (Claire McD)	56 <sup>th</sup> N (Upton) Claire B

No feedback from:

2 <sup>nd</sup> N (St Giles)	5 <sup>th</sup> N (St. Marys RC)
23 <sup>rd</sup> N (Headlands)	29 <sup>th</sup> N (Parklands + St Albans)
30 <sup>th</sup> N (Abington Ave)	46 <sup>th</sup> N (Overstone)
55 <sup>th</sup> N (Little Billing)	38 <sup>th</sup> N (Moulton)

### Intros:

Everyone introduced themselves, with a special welcome to the newest colony: a second colony at 1<sup>st</sup> Wootton whom started in September '18 with a full contingent of Beavers, and to Harry Whiting (50<sup>th</sup>) whom has taken a County Beaver Leader role on.

ADC introduced himself, and gave a brief Scouting background.

ADC then gave his vision for the role for the coming years:

The main focus is in the developing of direct support for all the Beaver leader teams in the district, where needed, prioritising the retention of adults, the growth of colonies and the reduction of waiting lists to form new colonies.

We want all the leaders in the district to be able to call for help in assisting with anything they need and can't get from their group, or need additional support to what the group can offer, whether this be programmes support, training support, financial support, personal (one2one) support.

The mechanism for this will be a major shift for the district and is itemised further in the minutes.

District events will be secondary to the role, with all taking an active role part in events that are called for.

### **Resources:**

The venue for the evening was the Scout shop, the reason being to ensure everyone was up to date with what is available; new log books, lodge leader stripes, parents guides etc.

Think this worth the squeeze of people in the shop, as not all were aware of material available.

Agreed to do 'drop-in' sessions on a Monday in future.

### **Lodge Leader Challenge event:**

This has been set for Feb 10<sup>th</sup> (1.30-3.30), details out first thing in January, theme: Emergency Aid.

After discussion, we agreed to 'drop' the emergency aid stage 1 as a prerequisite, reward all that attend, ensure the event is 'YouShaped'.

We have a sponsor for the event: Daisy First Aid, who will also help with the running, and provide some prizes.

### **Damboree Weekend : June 1-3 (Overstone)**

This is a HQ initiative, to encourage and support leaders to gain a camping permit, so more Beavers are taken away in tents.

The weekend can one or two nights, your choice. Overstone has been booked so we can all arrange our camps for the same time, and support each other together.

The event is not a district camp, but a district plan will be put together to support to help plan, deliver a colony camp, arrange/assign Nights Away Advisors for all those that take part.

Save the dates, ADC to send further info' out by the end of February.

### **YouShaped:**

All were asked about the HQ initiative, and all were aware and incorporated into colony programmes. HW asked what/if there was anything at county level that we wanted; response was not 2018 but yes to a Beaveree in 2019. If any other ideas came along, then please to ADC to forward to HW.

### **Membership Enquiries:**

Since the ADC also dealt with the direct membership enquiries from HQ and county, leaders were asked about the mechanisms in their groups, some are dealt by GSL, some by BSL, some by group coordinator. After discussions, all felt what works for them in the groups need no change.

ADC quoted the 700 enquiries we have had in one year, some re-enquiring after a month or longer after no response from groups, this is unacceptable, and requested that anyone that was in the enquiry line do contact the enquirer with 48 hours of receiving email.

### **Buddy Groups:**

To enable the district to grow and support a further 2-3 colonies over the couple years meeting formats need to be changed, so that colonies are supported at a more local level, and in tune with local needs/situations.

We have 24 colonies now, but could have 27 in 3 years time, we all meet on different nights, we all dont want to travel the ends of the earth as time is precious to us all, so we need to rethink what we do and how we do it.

ADC is developing Buddy groups to give a more direct/self-supporting mechanism.

There will be no more 'district wide' meetings, unless event specific items need to be discussed.

There will be 5 Buddy groups (see rough area plan attached), and for the sake of coordinating are named North, South, East, West and Central.

Each Buddy group meeting one every two months (approx, could be more if need), it needs to be social & supportive, where ideas can be swapped/demonstrated, cross-colony activities can be arranged. Anything deemed needing additional support can be referred to ADC.

Then post-meetings adults can drop-in to each others colonies for support or watch how activities are done.... in essence we what to make our 'jobs' easier and more fun..

ADC is in the process of arranging 5 Buddy group coordinators, these will be advise by the end of January, enabling a Buddy meeting to arranged for first week of February.

### **Next Steps (from this meeting):**

ADC to email out Challenge Info [early Jan]

ADC to email out Buddy coordinator info and remits (inc meeting timeframes) [by end Jan]

ADC to email out Damboree info [by end Feb]

ADC to email out District email sign-up info (requested) [asap]

ADC to email out additional 'drop-in' session dates for Mondays at Scout Shop [by end Jan]

### **Next Steps (ADC)**

Arrange meeting with Buddy coordinators

Discuss with District team on next stage of development

Discuss with District team on specific group support

