

Managers Report 2014 -2015

Wow, I cant believe I have now been in role for over three years, and what transformation the unit has been through. This is my opportunity to review the successes of the last year, and look forwards to the next year and share with you our plans for the unit.

Whilst I'm keen to share with you our financial statements these still need to be scrutinised, and therefore will not be available until next month. These will be shared with all members in due course. We will also be sharing a proposed budget for next year so members can see how their funds will be spent.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their support over the last year, we couldn't have achieved all these major milestones if it wasn't for your commitment and support.

Over the last year we have increased the size of the management team, this enabled us to do more, and achieve more as a unit. Id like to extend a special thanks to the management team – Dan, Bruce, Sarah, Tom, Rob and Marc. Without you guys we wouldn't have been anywhere near as successful as we have been.

I hope you find this report interesting and useful, and as always if you have any specific questions, or you're interested in getting more involved in the unit then please do contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Preston
Unit Manager

Membership

- Our membership continues to grow with over 90 adults on membership system, and over 50 want to join enquires.
- We have sold 195 neckers to scouts from around the world throughout the last year, as well as selling our unit badge, and names tapes for those who enjoy collecting them. We have used these to help raise awareness and visually demonstrate that Scouting is open and welcoming.

Finance

- Our income continues to rise through the collection of membership fees as well as donations from members and sales of unit products.
- We received a small grant from HQ to create resources for pride in a box. These specifically were two feather banners.

Events

- We attended more young people events then ever before including Gilwell 24 and Winter Camp.
- We held our annual members Christmas social in Birmingham and had over 15 members attend,
- We held our second ever annual camp at Coventry and had 25 people attend over the weekend.
- We attended Gilwell Reunion, and once again offered a catered option. We had over 20 people catered and camping us. We also engaged with more adults than ever before throughout the weekend,

Pride

- We supported the attendance at 10 pride events across the UK.
- We attended Student Pride for the first time, and successfully recruited two adults
- We attended the Pride in London Volunteer fair for the first time, and raised awareness within the LGBT community of Scouting.
- We had over 90 adults and young people attend Pride in London, and for the first time held a breakfast event to bring members together. We continue to be key members of the project team for our attendance at Pride in London.

Communications

- We launched a new website and communications system, making it easier for members to attend events and engage with the unit.
- As part of LGBT history month we ran profiles on six members from across UK and all roles in Scouting.
- Our Social Media presence has doubled in a year. We currently have 689 Likes on Facebook and 561 followers on Twitter.

Other Achievements

- We continue to have strong relationships with the UK HQ team, as well as the Specialist Advisors for Inclusion and Diversity.
- We created, and began to deliver a two year service agreement which focuses us on our aims of supporting the recruitment and retention of LGBT members in Scouting.
- We have grown our management team from four people to seven to enable us to do more.
- We're being asked to share our experience of supporting LGBT members with other international Scouting Associations.
- We've created new programme ideas to be run at events for all sections, and these will be tested out this coming year.
- We continue to provide signposting and support to members of the Scout Association around LGBT matters.
- We've developed and maintained a relationship with Scouts for Equality in the USA.

So Whats Next?

- This year we aim to continue to increase our membership, and complete targeted recruitment at key adult events across the UK.
- We are currently proposing a breakeven budget, which will focus us on spending money on resources for pride across the UK.
- We will increase the number of young people, and adult events we attend as well as ensuring we evaluate our attendance at all events.
- We will ensure The Scout Association attends the key seven pride events across the UK, as well as delivering resources through pride in a box.
- We will improve our communications through a manager's blog, a monthly newsletter and greater use of social media.
- We will continue to build relationships with key stakeholders, and share our knowledge and experience nationally and internationally.
- We will complete a membership survey to help understand the needs of our members and how we can fulfil them.
- We will collect evidence to show the support that LGBT young people need in Scouting.