

Group Newsletter No. 95 (Special) June 2008

Dear Parents and guardians,

Our income comes from a number of sources, such as rental on our garages and use of our Headquarters by others. But a substantial amount comes from the subscriptions paid by parents for their children and amounts we can raise by a number of fundraising events throughout the year.

We receive no external funding.

The Group is run totally by volunteers but we do have to pay for all the equipment and materials we use, badges, heating, lighting, vehicles, (MOT, tax and insurance), Headquarters and building maintenance, insurance and cleaning costs. These costs have risen substantially recently, as I am sure you will be aware.

In recent years fundraising has been taking place in an increasingly competitive environment. Not only have parents been under pressure to assist schools in their own fundraising projects but attendance at and support of parents and others at our events has been declining.

Participation by many parents in traditional scouting activities has been very positive in recent years and for this we are tremendously grateful and encouraged. But other pressures on families have meant that some of our fundraising efforts have been disappointing. Part of the fundraising has always to try to subsidise the actual activities but this is increasingly difficult within our resources. We are currently reviewing every fundraising activity to confirm its viability both in terms of income generation and the human resources needed to raise those funds.

The 22nd Wimbledon Headquarters was built in 1965 (and enlarged in 1975) but is now beginning to show its age. The facilities, although usable, are not up to a modern standard demanded by many who use the building. We are about to try to secure major funding to rebuild or refurbish the whole estate.

Of the £25 per term that we ask for your child's subscriptions you should be aware how this money is used. The accounts published each year in our Annual Report (the latest one if for 2006/7) explain the overall income and expenditure. Of our total income less than 15% comes from individual subscriptions alone. Only 15% of our income in total is from subscriptions and scouting activities. A further 12% comes from fundraising activity. We have recently decided to stop holding jumble sales because of declining interest and revenues.

Of the £75 per year you contribute, currently £25 of this, over which we have no control, is paid direct as a membership fee to the Scout Association (which includes a fee for the year payable to the local District, our Scout County and the national organisation covering their costs, training materials and perhaps most importantly, insurance cover, for all members on scouting activities) leaving £50 for use by the 22nd. £20 of this actually goes to the Group whilst £30 goes to the Colony, Pack

or Troop. Out of the £20 come all the overheads of running the Group whilst from the money paid to the sections this amounts to less than a £1 per person per meeting over the year. Subscriptions were last increased in **September 2003** when they were raised from £65 per year to the current £75 per year.

The Executive Committee has therefore agreed that we must keep the subscriptions in line with our ever increasing costs and reflect the decline in traditional fundraising methods which we have traditionally used. It is therefore with regret that **we have decided to increase the termly subscription to £30 per term from September 2008.** The additional £5 per term will go to the Group. I hope you will continue to agree that this subscription still provides excellent value for money for what we seek to provide.

Yours sincerely

Alan Maloney
Group Scout Leader