



# 1<sup>st</sup> Cookham Scouts

## Subscription FAQ 12/99

### Frequently Asked Questions.

The purpose of this sheet is to inform you about our Subs. and where the money goes. If you have additional questions, please contact the Scout Leader or the Group Scout Leader.

#### **How Subscription levels are set**

The Group Executive Committee (EC) set subscription rates each year at the AGM. In setting the rates the EC consider several factors;

- Annual Scout Movement Capitation
- Headquarters & Equipment Overheads
- Support for Fundraising
- "Value for Money"

**Capitation:** Each year the Scout Movement requires a capitation fee for every member of the Group (Beaver, Cub, Scout, Venture and Leader). This fee covers the costs of running the National organisation which offers support and structure to the Group and ensures our Group is insured in the activities we undertake. About one third of our subscription is handed straight over to the National organisation.

**HQ & Equipment:** Every effort is made to ensure the membership is not burdened with maintenance costs, however, the HQ running, upkeep, improvements, insurance and utilities require funding. Equipment upkeep, replacement and modernisation also require funding. The EC must take into account these costs and the likely fundraising activities when setting subscription levels. Cookham is fortunate to enjoy its own HQ and a vast range of quality equipment which all Sections use.

**Fundraising:** This is an important part of every Scout family's life. The basic equation is, the more successful the fundraising the lower the level of Subs. .

- It is the intent of the EC to organise sufficient fundraising activity to cover the HQ and Equipment running costs. If the fundraising is successful we will have additional money to invest in the Group. If the fundraising fails, we draw upon those investments.
- It is critical to the success of the organised fundraisers that every Scout family accepts the balance of this equation and happily contributes in whatever way appropriate to the organised fundraising.
- As a Troop, we expect every Scout to keep key dates free - these are always on the programme months ahead so there really is no excuse for missing out.
- Fundraising exists to benefit everyone in the Group. The success of these activities allows the Group to assist in Camp fees and transport costs etc., to provide a high level of Leader training / qualification and equipment for the Group and to help in cases of hardship.
- Support for these activities is crucial if the members are not to be burdened with the cost of running the Group.

**"Value for Money"** : The EC set the cost of membership at a reasonable level which the majority can accept. If the Scout Section charged 'Fair Market Value' for many of the events organised the cost would become prohibitive.

## **Subscription Rates and Dates**

We organise ourselves by term in the same way as the local schools. Our Subs. are due on a term by term basis.

The current Subscription rate is £15.00 per term, payable immediately term begins.

## **How Can I pay ?**

We offer two ways of paying Subs.

**Gift Aid.** This is the most beneficial method for the Troop for two reasons;

- a. it is a great tax break which allows us to claim back 30% addition funds from the taxman (money you've already paid in tax)
- b. it saves untold hassle at the start of each term with cash collection, reminders, more reminders and the Troop running out of money!

A form for completion of the Gift Aid is enclosed with this pack. (NB. If you signed up for a Deed of Covenant in either Beavers or Cubs then just let us know and it will transfer automatically)

**Term by Term - Cash.** Always acceptable but not as beneficial to the Group. If making payment each term please ensure this is the very first thing you do when packing your son off to the first meeting of term. If we are able to collect all Subs. in the first two weeks of a term it saves an incredible amount of effort and ensures we have our money to pay capitation and for all the programmed activities.

## **So where do the Subs. go ?**

The Scout Troop runs a very mixed and active programme. Many items rely upon the use of expertise or equipment that we possess in the Leader team and Group, but very often we will need to purchase 'raw materials' for activities or pay for the hire of equipment or a location (i.e. 5-a-side soccer). Additionally when we invest Scouts or award badges the Troop covers these costs (the average badge is now about 75p!) It is towards these general Troop running costs that the Subs. are used.

## **So why occasionally are there other charges?**

We make every effort to manage the programme developed by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC), in consultation with their Patrols, within the budget of our Subs. but on occasion we do ask for addition funds, usually due to :

- Transport fuel costs. If we provide transport, saving parents the cost and inconvenience, we will ask for a contribution.
- Outstanding Subscriptions or late payment means we simply don't have the cash available that we expected but wish to continue with programmed activities
- The event is supported by the majority but is unusually expensive

## **In Summary**

- ❖ Subs. are charged to cover Capitation and Troop running costs
- ❖ The Troop expect every Scout to support key fundraising activity
- ❖ The Group EC organise a number of fundraising events which require parental support
- ❖ Subs. are due every term and we would prefer Deed of Covenant
- ❖ Subs. are set according to expected levels of fundraising support by families

## **Hardship**

*It is the right of every Cookham Scout to enjoy the benefits of Scouting to the full. We encourage every Scout to participate in every event. The Group has funds available to ensure that hardship is not a factor in determining whether a Scout attends any event. Please, let's talk - speak to any Leader in confidence.*

**EC** We encourage all parents to join the EC. The EC meets approx 6-8 times a year. Speak to the SL/GSL for details.