

1st. STRATHMORE GROUP BOY SCOUTS.

G.S.M.'s REPORT, 6th. June, 1951

A meeting of parents of Scouts who are interested in attending the Xmas camp at Bright was held at the home of S.M. John Brooker on Wednesday 16th. May and Monday 4th. June.

At this stage I would like to lay emphasis on the point that this was not a breakaway movement from the group, but a very necessary discussion, amongst the parents of Scouts who will in all probability be attending the camp, of approximate costs for each individual boy as regards transport and rations. The Monday meeting was spent on working out details of menus for each day and approximate quantities of food necessary.

From these discussions we have arrived at the approximate cost for each boy, which will be between £5 and £6. To help parents in this matter, we intend to open a camp bank, into which weekly payments can be made, 5/- per week being the suggested amount. We would appreciate it if anyone on the committee can assist us as far as buying food at cost etc.

As you know, John's parents are also going to Bright, and we hope that our A.S.M. Bill Downes will also be in attendance, so that parents need have no worries regarding their lads in the capable hands of these four experienced people.

Camp equipment required:

1 10 x 12 tent, fly, poles and tent pegs.	<i>Guy ropes</i>
1 Mallet	2 Spoons
1 Mattock	2 Frying Pans
1 Spade	1 Large Baking Dish
1 Meat Safe	2 Mixing Bowls
2 Laterns	
2 Dixies	
2 Ladles	

The approximate cost, £20 40

Troop equipment required:

6 Semaphore flags, size 18 inches square, 1/2" X 2'6" Dowel	
6 Triangular bandages	for handle.
1 pr. Fore arm splints	
1 " Leg splints	
100ft. Rope manila	The approximate cost £20
1 roll Sailors twine	
Troop Log Book	
1 Compass, needle or floating card type.	

B.P. once said" Scouts must of course be accustomed to living in the open, they have to know how to put up tents or huts for themselves, how to lay and light a fire, cook food, how to tie logs together to make bridges" and so on. In other words the equipment we are asking for is the main part of our equipment without which we are unable to train our lads in the true methods of scouting and so build the troop into something we can all be proud of. We have reached the stage now that we must have this equipment immediately if we are to carry on and hold the interest of the lads. There are only one or two now that have not been investedn and on to the 2nd. Class work which needs this equipment.

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We ~~are~~ unable to hold a Group Council before this meeting, but Akela has informed me that there are some items of equipment she needs, and is going to buy them from the Pack funds. Which brings me to another point. It has been agreed between Akela, John and myself that each section will hold no more than £10 in their respective banks, and any surplus of this amount will be paid into the general funds every quarter.

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Getting on to fiance, the troop has bills to the amount of £11-18-8, £2-9-9 of this has been paid by the S.M and he must of course be reimbursed. The troop have £5-9-0 in its account

which means

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which means we are calling on the committee for a cheque for £6-9-8 to meet these bills, and I would like the troop and pack accounts to be made up to £10 each from general funds.

Quite a lot of you are probably saying to yourselves, "what about the building fund". The point is this, while we must never forget the main factor that we must, and it is a big must, have our own hall, we must also realize the fact that to run this group on the lines I would want to see it run, we must have equipment otherwise we will have no troop, because the lads will lose interest very quickly, and I would add that in my own opinion quite a lot of the Cubs and Scouts of to-day will not have the benefit of that hall in view of the cost of building and the material situation as it is to-day.

There is a serious problem confronting the scouts^{6/5} of the troop at the moment and it follows these lines. We are unable to give Saturdays to the lads for various domestic reasons, and we wish to know the attitude of the scouts parents mainly as to Sunday afternoon parades, possibly every third Sunday. These would follow the lines of normal Saturday parades, hikes, scout work etc.

The troop has been donated two flags, Union Jack and Australian flag, and I would like the secretary to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Dorwood and Mrs Brooker for their very kind help. The troop has bought a troop flag, which as far as I know will also be donated.

The Pack were rather unlucky as regards their flag, the order for which I believe did not go through from H.Q. through some misunderstanding no doubt, but John has it in hand now, and we are hoping to get it soon enough for them both to be available for the District Ball.

The bottle drive as you know commenced on Saturday 2nd. June, and we had quite a good roll up of Cubs and Scouts assisted by their younger brothers and other boys on the waiting list. All the lads bucked in, and are to be commended on a very good days work.

As the drive turned out to be more successful than we anticipated, the lads were unable to cope with the sorting of the bottles, but members of the committee came to the rescue on the Sunday and were able to have all bottles sorted in time for the dealer to collect them.

I now realize that the boys cannot cope with the collecting and sorting the bottles and that we would like the assistance of the committee in this respect.


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G.S.M.