

1st Crudwell
Scout Group

Annual Report
April 2002



Leadership Team

Committee

Group Chairman:	Geoff Richardson
Group Secretary:	Pam Green
Group Treasurer:	Brian Cole
District Representative:	Barbara Rawle
Parent Members:	Karen Fulford Jackie Applegate

Scouters

Group Scout Leader:	Tony Hudson
Beaver Scout Leader:	Stewart Joslyn
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader:	Jackie Joslyn
Cub Scout Leader:	Mike Goodyer
Assistant Cub Scout Leader:	Caroline King
Scout Leader:	Martin Preater
Assistant Scout Leader:	Jess Baldry
Venture Scout Leader:	Helen Bleakley
Assistant Venture Scout Leader:	Jon Baldry

Group Website at <http://www.wiltshirescouts.org.uk/1stCrudwell/>

Group Chairman's Report

The committee together with leaders, parents and many of the scouts worked tremendously hard to make the bonfire night at Lydiard Park a resounding success. We were congratulated by 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group for the efforts made by all and sold out of nearly items. However there is no guarantee that we can repeat this performance as we are dependant upon the prevailing weather. Nevertheless this event will feature in our future in our fundraising efforts in November 2002. Please pray for good weather!

Within the year we also raised monies from the Crudwell cycle ride, a couple of cake stalls and Webb Ivory sales of Christmas goods.

In future local fund raising is likely to become more difficult. Activity at Friday Island seems to have has slowed and we are not hopeful of any major commitment this summer. Also with declining numbers there are less parents to help meaning we need that much more from everyone.

However the Group will endeavour to hire out the marquee locally which hopefully will bring in some funding.

On behalf of the Group Executive I thank all leaders and lay members of the Group for their unstinting efforts over the last twelve months.

Your Executive Committee are also aware of the many challenges that lie ahead and will provide support to the GSL and his team as far as we are able.

Geoff Richardson – Group Executive Chairman

Group Scout Leaders Report

Crudwell Scout Group is still one of the largest group in the new District, it would not be without the support the Group gets from the members and their parents but especially from the Leaders and Committee. The section programmes are carefully thought out to include well balanced weekly meetings together with exciting trips, camps and other activities.

Membership

The trend in membership numbers is again downward which is becoming a worrying statistic which we need to address. Ventures have 7 regular members on their books but the majority of these will be going to university after the summer. Scouts have again dropped and are now at 16 from 27 2 years ago. This is undoubtedly a direct cause of not being able to provide a co-ordinated programme due to the Leader crisis. Cubs are about the same as last year and we continue to attract non Beaver boys which helps maintain the numbers. Beavers have recovered somewhat but some more would help to feed into the other sections. These figures were taken from the annual census at the end of January so may vary from current numbers.

Leaders

We have now reached crisis point with Leaders. Stewart and Jackie Joslyn are looking at moving in the near future and are intending to give up Beavers at the end of the Summer term. We have got Heather Barber coming on board as a new Beaver Leader over this term but will need at least one more Leader if Beavers is to continue after the Summer.

We also have a new Cub Leader as assistant to Mike Goodyer in Caroline King who is learning the ropes quickly and has started her training programme. now.

Scouts is a different matter, Martin Preater although retaining his links with the Group but cannot attend weekly meeting due to his job. Jess Baldry stepped into Martin's shoes and continued to run the troop meeting to the high standard we are used to but is also under pressure from work commitments. The continued running of the troop has only been possible by moving Ventures from Tuesday's to Thursday's to maximise the use of Leaders. I am now attending Scouts most weeks together with Jon Baldry in his Venture Leader role to ensure it can continue to function in a co-ordinated way. This is not a situation that can continue indefinitely. It is essential to find some Leaders to run the troop if it is to continue in the Autumn. Ventures leadership is not ideal as Helen now has a young baby and with Jon splitting his time between Scouts and Ventures, neither section is getting the best.

We therefore need more Leaders! We can not maintain all four section without recruiting several more Leaders.

Training

There has been very little training carried out this year but is likely to increase with new Leaders.

Activities

The ravages of foot and mouth severely limited the extent of activities within Scouting throughout the country and we were no exception. We did continue with weekly programmes but outdoor activities had to be put on hold for the duration of the restrictions of access to the countryside. The Cubs still managed to camp at a Scout campsite in Taunton and the Scouts and Ventures had a joint camp in the Forest of Dean, organised at the last minute when the Welsh Jamboree was cancelled.

We are now able to go back to hiking, tracking and trail laying and a myriad of other outdoor activities that Scouts normally take part in.

Committee

Barbara Rawle has now taken on the job of District Chairman and has reluctantly decided she can no longer continue as Crudwell District Representative. Many thanks to Barbara for her work over the years in supporting this Group and we wish her well in her new role. It is now time we had new members on the committee to inject new ideas and renew all our enthusiasm to take the Group forward into this era of change.

Many thanks to all the Leaders and committee members who give their time freely week after week for the benefit of the Group and its members.

Treasurer's Report

This year has been another unremarkable year (financially speaking). Our income and outgoings were in balance again, and the group's finances remain fundamentally sound with more than £2400 available to the group.

There were no major capital purchases this year, and our inventory of equipment remains unchanged. The cost of insurance has risen to £216 this year from £187 last year reflecting the value of equipment that the Group owns. As expected, our equipment repair bills have remained low as a result of the equipment purchases made two years ago, and this continues to offset the increased insurance costs.

Fund raising activities have recovered after the alarming dip caused by Foot and Mouth, but it was necessary to raise subscriptions to offset the losses.

On a brighter note, most parents have kindly filled in Gift Aid statements and I was able to reclaim £535 from the Inland Revenue on subscriptions paid in FY2000/1. I expect to make a similar claim for this year.

Given the increase we have had during the last year, there is no need for an increase in subscriptions for the coming year.

Brian Cole - Group Treasurer

Statement of accounts at 31st March 2002

Funds Brought Forward:

Current account	£ 1,353.55
Savings account	£ 1,000.07
Cash in hand	£ 121.67
Total from prev. year	£ 2,475.29

Excess of Income over Expenditure

Total Income	£ 4,192.77
Total Expenditure	£ 4,232.46
Total income this year	-£ 39.69

Funds Carried Forward:

Current account	£ 1,330.55
Savings account	£ 1,004.48
Cash in hand	£ 100.57
Total carried to next year	£ 2,435.60

Income and Expenditure

Income:

Subscriptions	£ 1,599.50	
Bank interest	£ 8.16	
Venture Capitation	£ -	
Uniform and equipment sales	£ 9.00	
Donations	£ 52.10	
Miscellaneous	£ 10.00	
Badge account	£ -	
Gift Aid	£ 535.08	
Total	£ 2,213.84	£ 2,213.84

Fundraising:

24hr Bike ride	£ 525.00	
Lydiard Park	£ 738.00	
Web Ivory	£ 301.78	
Raffles	£ 302.50	
Produce sales	£ 111.65	
Total	£ 1,978.93	£ 1,978.93

General Expenditure:

Capitation	£ 1,384.50	
Village hall rent	£ 869.80	
Leaders expenses	£ 240.00	
Scout magazine	£ 82.80	
Insurance	£ 187.58	
Badge account	£ 71.14	
AGM catering	£ 35.99	
Minor equipment purchases	£ 452.46	
Donations	£ 84.37	
Uniform and equipment purchases	£ 301.87	
Equipment repairs	£ 271.74	
Training	£ 174.25	
Total	£ 4,156.50	-£ 4,156.50

Major Capital Expenditure:

Prizes	£ -	
Total	£ -	£ -

Events and Activities:

Crudwell October Event	£ 75.96	
Total	£ 75.96	-£ 75.96

Total Income	£ 4,192.77	
Total Expenditure	£ 4,232.46	
Total Income over expenditure		-£ 39.69

Section Reports

Waylands Smithy Venture Scout Unit

Against all our own organisational shortcomings we have managed to successfully run ventures almost every week for the last year. In the just two hours a week we have crammed in an impressive range of activities: in particular, our student cooking skills have already been perfected to make the maximum mess on a tight budget. As well as continuing our Monty Python education we have started to imitate, using James' camcorder: as those at the Crudwell Gang Show will have seen. Also, we have enjoyed a range of home-made popular game shows: including "Call my Bluff" and "Just a Minute". We also escaped the confines of the village hall, for instance in the summer we went gliding, and in the autumn we ran food and drinks for the Swindon fireworks.

Our summer camp, sadly not at the Welsh Jamboree (cancelled due to foot and mouth) was never the less, highly enjoyable, especially for those new to canvas, canoeing and climbing. Going away with the Scouts was a memorable experience, and one that shall be repeated this summer. This time, they will be accompanying us on our narrow boat holiday, one that will hopefully mirror the fun we had two years ago. For the last three years our unit has been made up of people solely of my age, and 'Worm' an intrepid youngster. Many thanks to our leaders for keeping us going, as well as helping to plug the gaps lower in the system. There would be no Ventures without Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers.

Sadly we are off to uni' this autumn, so it will be roughly at this point that the new system, Explorer Scouts, will swing into action, bringing many more new faces to the new unit. Naturally, this will lead to lots of change, as a new set of hands get the hang of Venturing into the unknown, however, hopefully we should be around at times to join in the madness that has been, and should continue to be, Crudwell Venture Scouts.

Waylands Smithy Venture Scout Unit Account

Statement of accounts at 9th April 2002

Brought forward from previous year	Cheque a/c		£204.52
Income:	1 Reduced Subscription @ 17.50	£17.50	
	9 Subscriptions @ 35.00	£315.00	
	Cheque 47 never cashed	£3.00	
	Repayment of Lyme Regis trip	£140.00	
	Bank interest	£0.43	
	Total	£475.93	
Expenditure	Cooking		£7.18
	Hall fees		£66.00
	Flower boxes		£23.05
	Total		£96.23
Total Income		£475.93	
Total Expenditure			£96.23
Total Income over expenditure			£379.70
Balance carried forward			£584.22

Scout Troop

The scouts have had a busy year again this year but unfortunately we have a crisis situation in leadership.

Firstly the boys: Last summer they took part in a 4 week water sports course doing windsurfing, canoeing and sailing. This proved to be as enjoyable as always and the boys will be continuing their training over the next few weeks with a further 4 week session. This was followed by the summer camp, which this year was a joint camp with the venture scouts in the Forest of Dean.

It was a bit touch and go at times during the preparation due to foot and mouth, but it all came together in the end. The boys had an action packed week with rock climbing, caving, canoeing, archery, orienteering and a trip to a maze. They also took part in a high ropes course, which involved many activities including Jacob's Ladder – a 30 foot high and 15 foot wide ladder supported by wires between trees. The rungs started off around 3 foot apart and finished around 5 foot apart. Obviously the boys were using harnesses and were protected but they needed to use teamwork to get to the top. They also did "The leap of faith" where they had to leap from a platform 30 foot high in a tree and catch a suspended trapeze a meter or so away. Again they were fully harnessed and safe but it took a bit of guts.

Since then the boys have had a fairly busy schedule fire lighting and cooking over fires, a Ready Steady Cook night, map and scout craft nights and the odd game of football or hockey.

Back to leaders: This year we have unfortunately lost the regular contributions from Martin who has not been able to attend all year due to his work commitments. Also my own work commitments have increased and I am now unable to attend on a regular schedule. I will be able to provide some occasional assistance until the summer but will not be able to continue after that.

As an interim step we have moved Ventures from Tuesday to Thursday so that the Venture Scout Leaders, Helen and Jon, can help when we are short staffed or unable to attend. We have also had to rely on Tony to run a large number of sessions.

We desperately need a new scout leader who can give a degree of continuity to meetings and can work with the other leaders who can give their time as their work schedules allow. If we are unable to find a suitable leader then there is a large chance that scouts will have to stop after the summer camp.

Any help finding a suitable candidate would be greatly appreciated.

Jess Baldry - ASL

Scouts Holiday Fund Account

Statement of accounts at 31st December 2001

Brought forward from previous year	Cheque a/c		£435.21
Income:			
	Summer camp 2001	£1421.32	
	Water activities	£323.60	
	Canal trip	£350.00	
	Bank interest	£0.86	
	Total	£2095.78	
Expenditure			
	Summer camp 2001		£1476.40
	Water activities		£334.80
	Canal trip		£300.00
	Total		£2111.20
Total Income		£2095.78	
Total Expenditure			£2111.20
Total Income over expenditure			-£15.42
Balance carried forward			£419.79

Cub Scout Pack

The support for the Cub Pack has remained high. Our numbers at the start of the year were 19 and now in April we have 18 boys, and still have three sixes. Over the last 12 months a number of Cubs have gone on into Scouts. Several Beavers have moved up into Cubs and two boys joined from outside the Scout Movement. Attendance at Pack Meetings and events remains high. Once again we have had to recruit new adult leaders into the Section. Andy Batty, who became a uniformed Scouter last year, left us in July when he moved to Bath. Andy brought his passion for creative arts to the Pack and the Cubs were able to learn from his skills - a big thank you from us all. We were then very lucky to have a parent come forward to become a leader. Cas King was invested and received her warrant in March and has fitted into the Pack straightaway. We all look forward to "Raksha" working with us at Cubs.

Activities

As usual our activities were based on the basic Scouting theme around Activity badges. They were:

- Athletes - involving a range of running, jumping and throwing skills
- Collectors - an opportunity for Cubs to show their favourite collections
- Community - learned about where we live

Health and Fitness - measured heart rates using pulse monitors

Road Safety - awareness of traffic important in the village

Swimmers - three stage badge, a fun evening in Cirencester

In addition several Cubs completed badges at home and these included: Book Reader, Cook, Home Help and Musician. We also worked on the progressive training badges, learning such things as the art and craft, country code, fire lighting, healthy eating, patron saints and tracking.

District Activities

We took part in several District activities this year. We hosted an evening of Athletics for local Cubs to gain their Activity Badge. Other events included "Scrapheap Challenge" - an art and craft event, "Super Cub" - a sport event, and the "Night Hike" - a problem solving overnight event. In addition we joined the other District cubs on a County Event at Osmington Bay - a weekend of adventurous or challenging events!

Summer Camp

In July we went to a Scout Association Camp Site at Huish Woods in Somerset. We teamed up with the Sherston Cubs and had four tents of Cubs. The camp site was in a clearing in the woods and had lots of places to explore. Activities included a day on the beach, climbing and abseiling, orienteering and camp games. The camp ended in the traditional way, with a camp fire.

We have a Pack full of keen and enthusiastic Cubs who bring our programmes to life and they delight in completing their Activity badges. Many thanks to Tony Hudson for continuing to support the Pack. My thanks also go to all the parents who support us at Pack Meetings, events and camps. Without the continued help of parents it would be difficult for Raksha and me to deliver the programme.

This next year will see changes in the Cub Programme at a National level. We are looking forward to finding out the new programme in May and start to introduce it over the coming year. There is never a dull moment in Scouting.

Mike Goodyer (Hathi) - Cub Scout Leader

Cub Camping Account

Statement of accounts at 31st March 2002

Brought forward	Cheque a/c		£317.99
from previous year	Cash		£48.09
Income:	Summer camp 2001	£1240.00	
	County activity weekend	£540.00	
	District Cub activities	£14.00	
	Scout activities	£204.00	
	Monarch's Way Walk	£213.50	
	Miscellaneous	£4.50	
	Bank interest	£0.49	
	Total	£2216.49	

Expenditure	Summer camp 2001	£1257.36	
	County activity weekend	£495.00	
	Pack activities	£42.65	
	District Cub activities	£21.75	
	Scout activities	£202.33	
	Monarch's Way Walk	£198.50	
	Total	£2217.59	
Total Income		£2216.49	
Total Expenditure		£2217.59	
Total Income over expenditure			-£1.10
Balance carried forward	Cheque a/c		£320.14
	Cash		£47.04

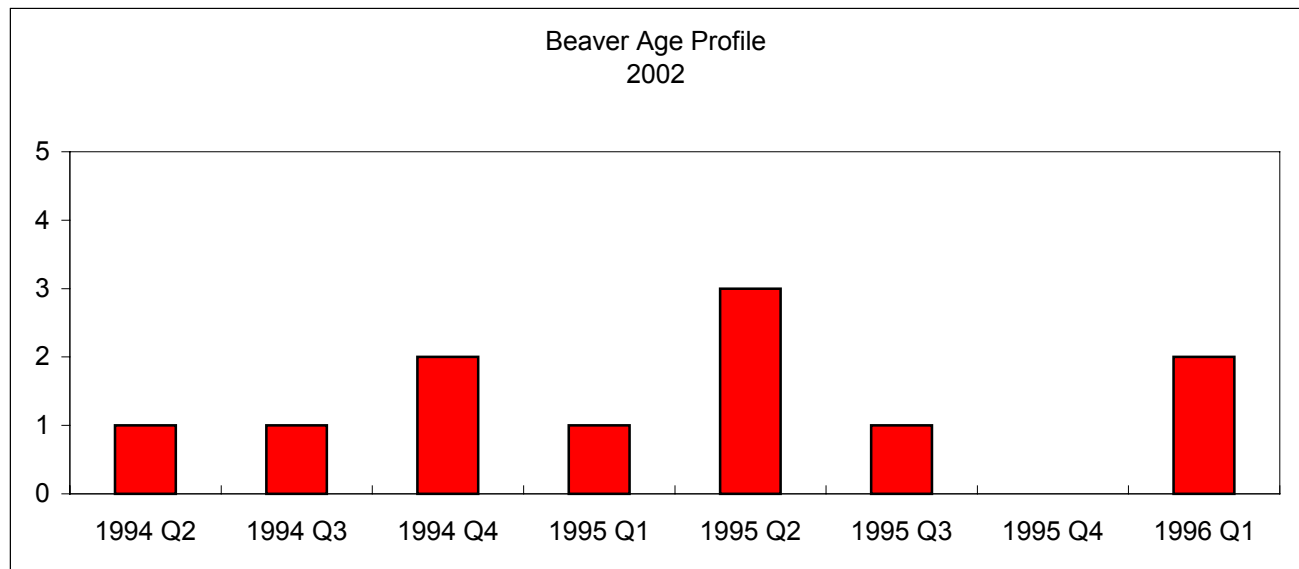
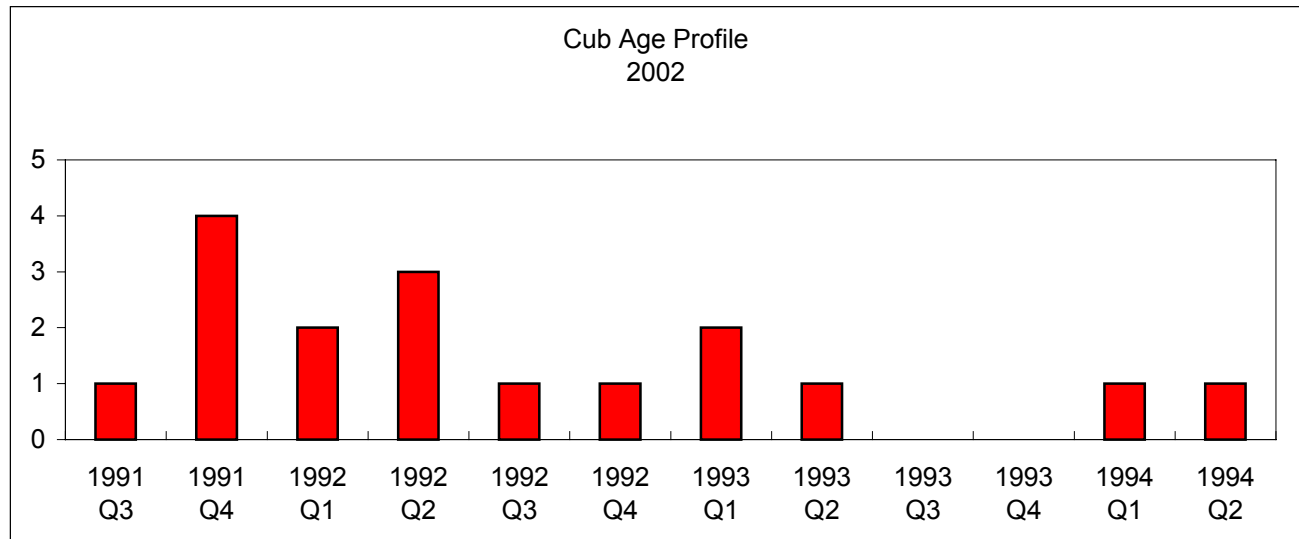
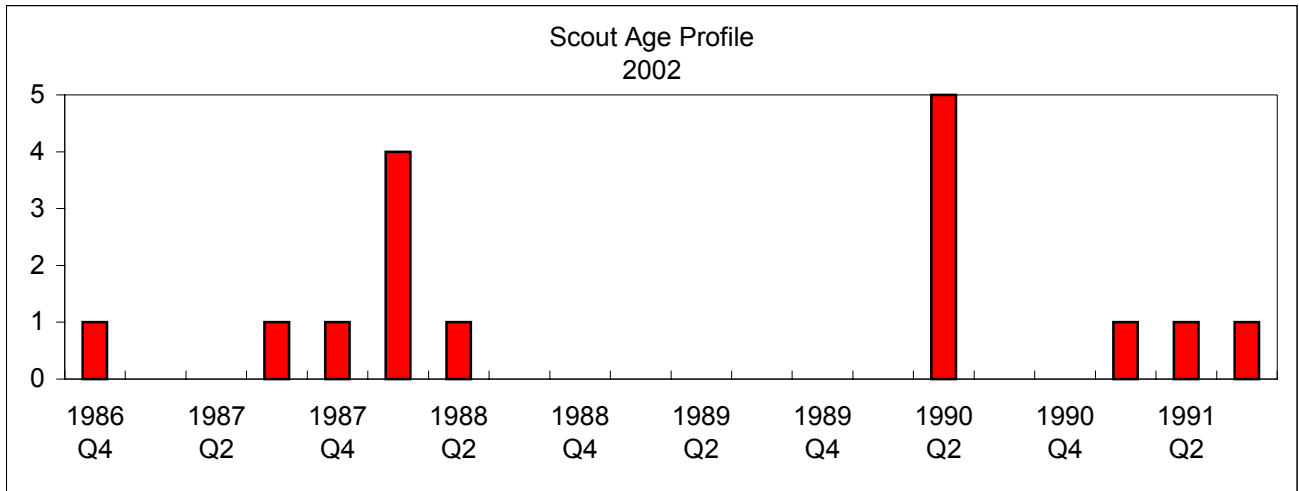
Beaver Scout Colony

The Beaver Colony has made steady progress over the last year with a variety of craft activities, games, stories and simply chat, all aimed at putting our motto of 'Fun and Friends' into practice. Beavers, especially when first joining, usually still are developing their social skills and meeting people from outside of their usual home and school circle once a week, while having fun, is a valuable experience for them. Although numbers have fluctuated, we now have sixteen enthusiastic Beavers and, just as importantly, a new and enthusiastic leader!

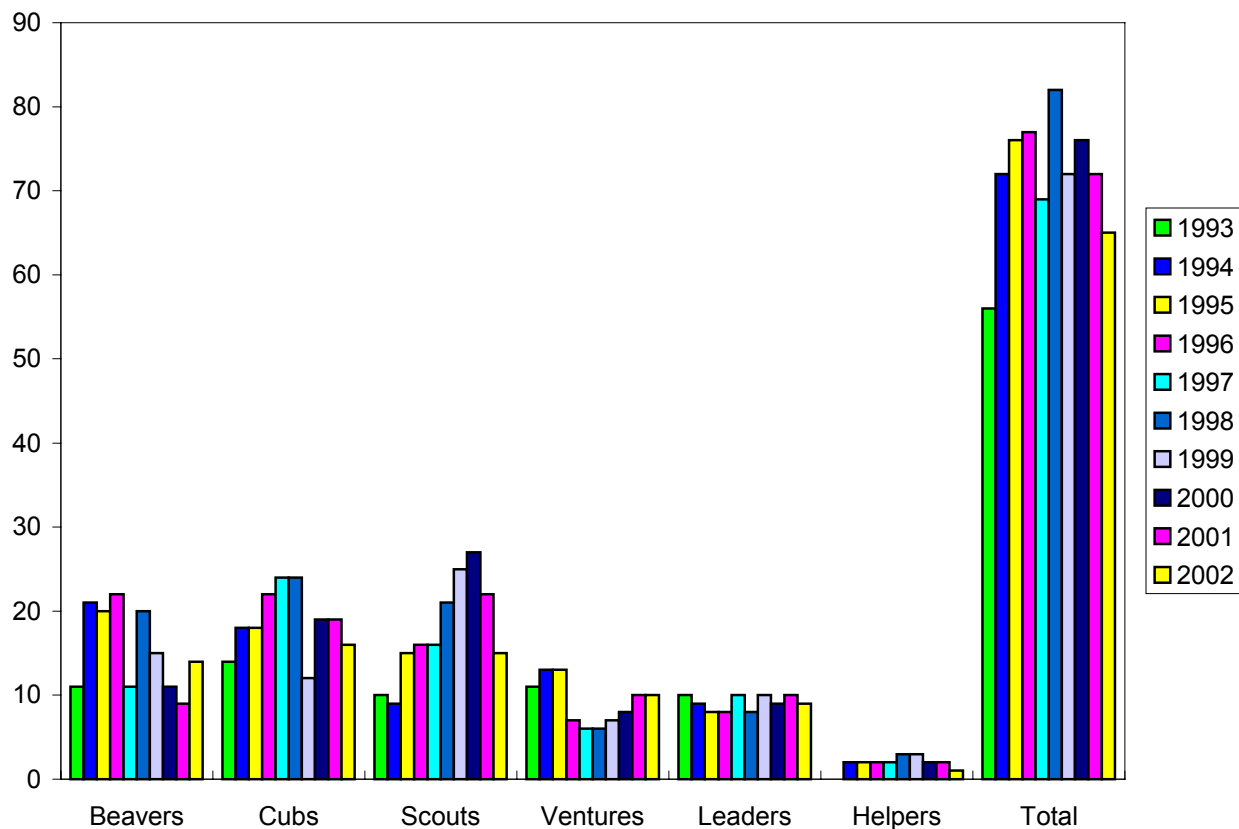
Heather Barber has agreed to take over as Beaver Scout Leader from the beginning of the Summer term. She has been actively involved in planning and running the Colony over the last few months and so already is 'up to speed'. She has a wealth of Scouting experience as a former Cub Scout leader in Chippenham which I am sure will stimulate a variety of new ideas that will help to make Crudwell Beaver Scouting an exciting and rewarding experience.

Unfortunately, I have found it increasingly difficult to attend meetings recently and this has placed the full load on Jackie and Heather over the last two or three months. They have done a great job, for which I am very grateful, but neither Jackie nor I will be able to continue after the summer. It is neither fair nor reasonable to expect Heather to run the Colony on her own. We still desperately need one or two Assistant Leaders. We now have a great chance to make our Beaver Colony a brilliant introduction to Scouting and all the opportunities and experiences that it offers our children to develop spiritually, emotionally and personally - but only if we have the essential, basic support.

Stewart Joslyn
Beaver Scout Leader



1st Crudwell Scout Group Membership Statistics



Total 2002 membership 65

