



**Second Sea Lord and
Naval Home Command**

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See Distribution

19 Jan 05

INSPECTION OF 8th WORTHING SEA SCOUT GROUP – 18 JAN 05

1. The inspection commenced 1900 at the Group's Headquarters in the grounds of Thomas A'Becket Middle School, whereupon the Inspecting Officer was piped onboard. He was met by the GSL, Mr Ian Wetherell and the Group Chairman, Mr Roger Green.
2. After witnessing the ceremony of Evening Colours, Lieutenant Commander Haynes was invited to inspect the Beaver Leaders, Cub Scout Leaders, Sixers and Seconds who were representing the 95 strong Cub Pack. Thereafter, he inspected Port Watch Sea Scout Troop. Starboard Troop and the Explorers were inspected later in the evening. The inspection was split, as the Groups size, one of the largest within the RN Recognised Scheme, made this evolution impractical to complete in a single session. 8th Worthing are congratulated on the very high standard of ceremonial activity throughout the evening and the good standard of dress achieved. The only 'pick up' point was that some cap tally bows could have been trimmed more neatly and cut to a shorter length.
3. Interspersed throughout the evening were a number of well organised activities. These included Throwing a Line, Navigation Buoys, Firefighting, and Knots/Lashings. The standard of instruction for these activities was very good and was well received by the Explorers and Scouts.
4. The Group has its own dedicated Headquarters, this it needs, as it is used Monday to Fridays by the various component Units. Now 25 years old, the buildings' lease is due for renewal in 3 years. At present, it is unclear whether this is guaranteed, which understandably has resulted in some plans for building refurbishment, being held back.
5. The Group has a supportive executive. It was encouraging to learn that gift aid had been applied for in full. The Group organises many fundraising activities, recently

Bag Packing at the local Sainsburys raised over £3,500. Commendably, it also raising money for other worthy causes such as the Boxing Day Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

6. Within the last year, the Group has purchased a brand new Ford Transit Minibus costing over £20,000, which has proved an invaluable asset.

7. The Group use South Water for their Boating activities, which is a flooded quarry situated 18 miles from their Headquarters. This facility has a suitable launching platform. 8th Worthing has a strong bias towards kayaking/canoeing and this is reflected in the equipment held by the Group. However, strenuous efforts are being made to purchase a new safety boat and increase the size of their existing dinghy fleet.

8. The Group held a successful Summer Camp at Longridge last year, which ran over a 2 week period.

9. 8th Worthing fairs extremely well in District Scouting Competitions and are the reigning Dragon Boat Champions. In addition, they also won silverware at last years RN Recognised Sea Scouts Swimming Gala, held at HMS Raleigh.

10. Prior to prayers and the Striking of the Ensign, the Inspecting Officer was delighted to be asked to present 2 Chief Scout Gold Awards. The decision to renew 8th Worthing's recognition, as a member of the RN Scheme, was announced at the end of the evening during Lieutenant Commander Haynes' final address.

11. The Group are thanked for the hospitality afforded to the Inspecting Officer throughout the evening.



J W Haynes
Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy

Distribution:

Mr I Wetherell, GSL 8th Worthing Sea Scout Group
Mr C Nagle, Training and Programme Advisor, Gilwell Park