



BERKSHIRE SCOUT ENTERPRISES LTD ANNUAL REPORT 2008

2008 – A Volatile and Challenging Year

2008 started with the knowledge that our funding from the European Social Fund would finish in March. This brought about the end of nearly a decade of providing courses for long term unemployed and those with disabilities who wished to return to work. On top of this our two year contract with the V charity came to an end in September. We also started the year without the long standing arrangement with Scout Enterprises (Western) Ltd, although during the year we were able to make available a couple of our programmes for their two newly obtained contracts. This also meant that we had become a direct employer so our number of employees increased from only one at the beginning of the year.

At the start of the year we were contacted by the Learning and Skills Council who wished to promote the government's decision that the Third (voluntary) Sector be involved in the Train to Gain programme. We were asked to run a Pilot Programme to see how we could match the Scout and Guide Associations Training Programmes to those of the National Vocational Qualifications. We formed a partnership with Standard Practice who were an accredited training centre, which in turn led to a three year contract to provide Train to Gain in the South East Region concentrating on the Third Sector.

We have continued to support a wide variety of Scouting activities throughout the world, reports of which we include in this report.

I would like to pay a special vote of thanks to our staff for all their support during what has been at times a very demanding year.

Alan K Beavis

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Train to Gain

Train to Gain is a government scheme to improve skills in the work place by offering NVQs. Originally available to commercial and public companies it was decided to extend it to volunteers and paid staff of voluntary organisations. After being invited to run a pilot scheme to establish a frame work for engaging volunteers, we were given a three year contract as a training provider. We were fortunate that one of the Company Directors/Trustees, Michael Stocks MBE, retired in December 2007 and was able to join us to establish the Train to Gain programme for Scouting and Guiding. We are grateful for the time he has put in with this contract. At the end of the year we had 41 Scout Leaders and 61 from the Community Sector, training towards NVQs. We congratulate all our staff for the hard work they have done in implementing this programme.

V-Reading

Our contract with the V national charity ended in September when there were changes to the funding arrangements. Its aim was to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering available to young people, especially those receiving benefits, in the Reading area. There were three strands to our work. Working on community projects, finding volunteers for other charities and renovation of computers being recycled for charities. As well helping the community, participants were offered training to develop their future without affecting their benefits. 177 young people took part in the project over the two years.

REBOOT

We continued with this hands-on training programme part funded by European Social fund, until its final date at the end of March. We comfortably exceeded our given target of 319 with a total of 382 beneficiaries.

Building Futures

Our series of specialist vocational courses which were part funded by the European Social Fund also came to an end in March. Our target of 623 beneficiaries was surpassed by some margin with a final total of 2777.

Supporting SEW Contracts

Scout Enterprises (Western) have secured two new contracts in their South East Region and we have entered agreement with them to provide a range of specialist courses. For Stepping Stones to Employment for the Learning and Skills Council, we provide courses on Manual Handling/Health & Safety, Food Hygiene, First Aid, Motivation, Confidence and Self Esteem. With Sector Skills Support for the Department of Works and Pensions in addition to those courses we also provide Fork Lift training, Construction Skills Certification Skills and Security Industry Authority.

LOCALLY

Backing Berkshire Scouting

Local Development Officer

This is the first full year that we have facilitated the employment of a full time Local Development Officer on behalf of Berkshire County Scout Council as Harriet Riley started work in December 2007. We have watched with interest how her work has improved Scouting in the county with new groups being started in several parts of Berkshire.

First Response

The Company continues to offer First Response, and 163 Leaders have undertaken this course in First Aid and Incident Management for Scout and Guide Leaders, which is a requirement for Scout Leaders.

Midas

30 Leaders have become accredited minibus drivers through our Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme course during the year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

We have continued to provide administrative support to Berkshire Scouts and over 70 Awards books have been issued.

County Training Team

With the re-location of the County Training Team to Gravelly Court the reorganisation was hampered by some flooding of the drainage system. The re-routing has been completed and plans put in hand to provide a new Training Centre that they will be able to use for Leader Training courses.



NATIONALLY

Giving assistance around the UK

Three Nations 2009

Working with the International Scout Fellowship we have facilitated the receiving of monthly payments to this project from the hundred young people who plan to visit China and Mongolia during the summer of 2009.



Scout Holiday Homes Trust

We have produced pocket sized leaflets to publicise and request donations as well as producing two copies of 'Holiday Action' the newsletter for supporters of the Trust which provides holiday homes for families with special needs.



International Scout Fellowship

We sponsored the International Scout Fellowship stand at the Gilwell Reunion which provided the main focus for those supporting the UK Africa Scout Fellowship. We also arranged the production of 100 circular blanket-type badges and 500 county badges. We have produced copies of 'Far and Wide' the newsletter for British Groups overseas.

UK Adult Scout Alliance

We have arranged during the year for the updating of the Alliance's website.

INTERNATIONALLY

Helping to make a difference around the world

UK Africa Scout Fellowship

We have continued to support this Fellowship, which is involved in initiatives where UK Scouts have been undertaking projects in Africa.

UK Uganda Network

We have supported this network since its inauguration and it continues to take Scouts to Uganda offering them an African experience and Explorer Belt opportunities.

Mityana Community Development Foundation

We have contributed to the travelling expenses of Trustees of the Foundation visiting Mityana during the year where they have established the second largest community centre and we have donated £200 for Scout membership badges for Scouts in the Mityana District.

YES Project - Kenya

The Company has continued to provide financial assistance to the YES project which aims to provide support and assistance to children in Kenya orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

It is hoped that the expedition to YES in Kenya, postponed due to the political unrest will now take place in 2010/11

Bambang Sunshine Project

As well as providing a computer to the Secretary of their UK Fundraising Committee, we have also produced two newsletters for the project which provides assistance to children with handicaps in the Philippines.

• One of the disabled children that have been helped by the Project.



PREMISES AND RESOURCES

Our Company offices, located at Gravelly Bridge Farm, increased in size with the availability of other barns. Barn 8 was taken over for storage use and towards the end of the year the decision was taken to convert Barn 5 into a County Training Centre.

Through the changes in our contracts, we have been able to offer employment to those who had worked for us previously through our partnership with Scout Enterprises (Western) and with the closing of the V project we were able to re-allocate staff, one member returning to Scout Enterprises (Western) and one joining the Train to Gain Contract. We have continued to supply resources to Scout Enterprises (Western) in the form of computers and photocopiers. We continue to offer our minibus for use by Scout and Guide activities and with the increased demand for transporting display material, we purchased a Vauxhall Vivaro van.



• Our new van is used for transporting display materials such as used at Lower Earley Open Day.



Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd

Gravelly Court, Gravelly Bridge Farm, Grazeley Green Road, Grazeley, Reading RG7 1LG

Tel 0118 988 4077 Fax 0118 988 6200

E-mail enquiries@bsel.org.uk www.bsel.org.uk