

# New Meeting Format

## Where we are now

When children arrive at the hut around 7pm, many of them naturally have questions about upcoming activities, or want to tell me about what they've been up to this week. In addition, sometimes there are parents to speak to, and normally children and parents want to hand in camp fees, consent forms and monies. This all happens at once. Sometimes I am surrounded by children and parents for up to 20 minutes!

Then when we do Flag Break there tends to be a lot of chatting and a lot of further questions, which affects this important Scouting ceremony, and we finally get on to the main activity around 7:30pm or later.

The end of the meetings can sometimes drag from 9:00pm to 9:10pm to 9:20pm, because it takes so long doing Notices at the end of meetings. There tends to be a lot more to talk about with parents (which is a good thing!), and after packing up and doing paperwork I sometimes leave the hut at 10pm or later. This has got slightly better recently because we trialled finishing a little earlier, but more needs to be done.

Talking to parents is a vital aspect of the Tuesday night meetings. However, I need to address the *how* and *when*.

I have

- Listened to verbal feedback from parents
- Considered written feedback from parents (parent questionnaires)
- Discussed the issues with Leaders
- Reflected upon previous meetings and current practice.

**I have decided to give more structure and discipline to the evening in order to address all feedback.**

The new format

- Provides more structure so that Scouts and parents know exactly what to expect
- Separates the Flag Break ceremony from the questions and chatting
- Ensures a specific time for Scouts questions, consent forms, camp monies etc
- Ensures more time is allowed for the main activity
- Encourages better behaviour
- Ensures we finish on time for those parents wishing to collect children at exactly 9pm
- Provides an allocated slot for parents questions

Please read '*From now on*'.