



The First New Cross (The Greys)

Scout Group

Annual Report and Accounts

2021/22

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Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

A. Reference and Administration Details.

Registered Charity Number: 1021328

Scout Registration Number 44935

Headquarters: 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley, London, SE4 1XW

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

David Pennell – President	Brian Sweeting – GSL & Treasurer	Eileen Fricker – Exec Member
David Fricker – Chairman	David Cohen – Asst. Group Scout leader	Eleanor Clarke – Secretary
Peter Buckle – Asst. Beaver Leader	Debbie Cohen – Cub Scout Leader	Zoe Gaffen – Exec Member
Elizabeth Fricker – DC Southwark & GSL	Luke Cohen – Quartermaster	Neil Penlington – Exec Member
Jacqueline Guest – Leader		

Other members of the Group Executive Committee:

Michelle Buckle, Alan McKinnon, Stacey Ingrassia, Katie Sturgess, Matthew Coleman, Roe Hennessy-Littlejohns, Shelby Millard, Joanne Fuller, Gemma Whitelaw, Sam Sheead.

B. Structure, Governance and Management.

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, including the members who are also the "Charity Trustees" of the Scout Group, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Group Executive Committee consists of three independent representatives, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with Group Scout Leader, individual Section Leaders (optional), parents' representation and others, and meets six times annually unless any extraordinary meeting needs to be convened. It exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: the maintenance of Group property; the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

c. Objectives and Activities.

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to provide the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual

potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult Leadership.

Amongst measures required to achieve our objectives are the production and implementation of informative, interesting and fun programmes and activities for all Sections plus the maintenance of numbers. Attendance at Cub and Scout District Camps and District sleep-overs for Beavers is typical of the external activities encouraged, as is taking part in broader based activities with other organisations and various Scout District and County organised events.

With costs rising sharply an income of around £10,000 per year is required to pay the Group's mandatory expenditure – Council tax, utilities, insurances, plus additional funds for exceptional and unexpected matters and vehicle insurance and running costs etc. More traditional methods of fund raising such as attendance at fairs continue to be in the main abandoned due to almost total lack of assistance and public apathy. Other methods of fund raising are being used including a direct method of raising establishment funds based upon the number of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels benefiting from our facilities, a couple of on-line shopping system which generates a percentage fee from the retailer, the Lewisham Lottery and numerous sponsored events and social evenings. The use of our Headquarters two days a week by three external organisations generates much needed donations as does the use for children's parties, however this is not necessarily throughout the entire year but we appreciate their continued support. The requirement of funds for the Group excludes the needs of funds for the Sections for expeditions and other activities.

D. Achievements and Performance.

The Group continues to go from strength to strength and is well supported by the Group Executive Committee. As outlined on a number of occasions, there is an ongoing requirement to encourage parents to become more involved in fundraising and social events which generate a much needed source of income, without which we would struggle to continue.

The provision of Scouting in Brockley continues to be adequately maintained. At the 2022 Census (January), our numbers had increased over a 12-month period in all sections, with strong retention rates. In the two months until the end of March 2022, our numbers have increased further still to maximum capacity in all sections with waiting lists. We need to ensure that this continues and maintain our extensive recruitment drives which are currently in progress and to concentrate on maintaining the youth membership. We have also continued to maintain sufficient numbers in adult leaders in all sections, but will continue to recruit to cover all eventualities. At the end of 2021 we decided that we would introduce the newest, youngest section, Squirrels (4-5 year olds), so we started the process of setting this up and we finally managed to open the Squirrel Drey on 23rd February 2022, the first non-pilot scheme in the County.

The Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section Annual Reports are appended at the end of this report. Also appended separately is a report from the Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit which although they are District based, is affiliated to the First New Cross, meets at our premises and is part of our Scouting Family.

The sections have undergone some leader changes in the past year and we have welcomed a number of new leaders into the Group. We also have a number of Occasional Helpers into the Group. The Group website, www.1stnewcross.co.uk originally set up by Luke Cohen, continues to grow and is constantly being updated and expanded, continuing to provide visitors to the site with a great deal of information

about the Group and its activities, fundraisers and events. The website looks fantastic. Our thanks to Luke Cohen for keeping this eloquently updated and maintained giving full transparency of the Group's activities.

In January 2022, Brian Sweeting, our Group Scout Leader for the last 12 years, stepped down from the role and has been replaced as Group Scout Leader by Elizabeth Fricker, former Scout Leader at First New Cross and former District Commissioner of Southwark, making history as the first female Group Scout Leader of the Group. Our thanks to Brian in all that he did as GSL and a very warm welcome to Liz, who will bring new ideas and a different perspective to the role. Brian has not left the Group, he will continue as Group Treasurer and Administrator.

The completion of training of Leaders through District and County run courses will continue to be a priority in 2022, and some training, Safeguarding, Safety and First Response require updating on a regular basis. All persons sitting on the Group Executive Committee also need to complete the online Trustee Induction Training. Alike with all other Scout Groups, all Leaders are volunteers and undertake their duties without any financial reward, indeed they are out of pocket, having to purchase uniform items and using annual leave to attend camps and other activities. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of very enthusiastic, dedicated Leaders who give as much of their own time as possible for the benefit of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, not just at weekly Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting nights and camps or expeditions but also in administration, advance programme planning, fundraising, Headquarters maintenance, advertising, recruitment and undertaking their own training. Without this very devoted team, the First New Cross could not perform to its full potential. Our thanks go to them all.

The members of the Group Executive Committee, that are not uniformed Leaders, are also unpaid volunteers and they too give up their spare time freely for the benefit of the Group and need to be DBS cleared and have minimal training. We continue to welcome one of our close neighbours, Neil (also a section parent), onto the Group Executive Committee to give our immediate local community a voice and so that they are aware of what happens within the Group and this has proved to be most beneficial. The Committee continues to retain and increase its member numbers however would still benefit immensely from increased parental involvement. All fundraising and social events that are arranged by the Group require the support of the parents that have sons or daughters within the Group to provide essential assistance in organising and running those events.

The end of the last financial year was a very sad one with the sad passing of our Beaver Leader, Michelle Buckle on 30th March 2022. Michelle was a lovely lady who always put the kids first and no matter how ill she was would still do as much as she could, even from her hospital bed. We thank Michelle for her service to our Group and Scouting in general as she was also an active member of the District Team as ADC Beavers. We will all miss Michelle and a memorial bench will be placed in our grounds so that we can all remember her.

We have five representatives from the Scout & Explorer Sections that will be going to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023, the only representatives from Lewisham District. There are also a number of leaders that will also be involved. In addition to this we have 14 young people that have been selected to go on the County trip to Croatia in 2023, again with a number of leaders also selected. This is an outstanding achievement and once in a lifetime experience for all.

There have been a number of section camps, sleepovers, trips and excursions throughout the year giving our youth element a wide and varied window of opportunities to enjoy different things and basic camping skills alike. The section reports appended to this report give in-depth insight into what these were and the enjoyment that was had by all.

In November 2021 the Group attended the Deptford War Memorial for our Remembrance Parade along with 2nd & 32nd Deptford Groups, where poppy wreaths were laid in remembrance.

Chief Scout Awards for each section have been gained this year, the latest of which will be presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening on 16th September 2022. The Group Annual Sectional Awards will be announced and presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening. As Squirrels has only been running since February, there will be an award for Squirrel of the 1st Term and then a Squirrel of the Year from next year, which will be known as the Michelle Buckle Award.

The Annual Awards are:

- Joe Curd Award – Beaver of the Year
- Barbara Collins Award – Cub of the Year
- Alan Collins Award – Scout of the Year
- Sid Reader Award – Explorer of the Year
- Geoffrey Morriss Award – For Outstanding Achievement

E. Financial Review.

i. Background.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Given the recent rise in costs of utilities and inflation, The Group Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, approximately £10,000.00. This amount was held at the year end.

In view of these constant increases in Utility and other tariffs, the Group Executive Committee may consider it to be prudent to increase this figure. With both Central and Local Government requiring further economies, there is a possibility that the only external financial assistance we receive, being the Mandatory 80% discount on Business Rates, could be reduced or even scrapped, particularly as a re-valuation of all Business Rates has recently been undertaken with possible new higher charges expected soon.

The Financial situation and details of Income and Expenditure are appended to this report.

The First New Cross Scout Group is totally self-supporting receiving no external financial assistance or regular grants from any source whatsoever save for the reduction in Business Rates as currently dictated by Parliament for premises used by Registered Charities.

We are very fortunate in having a substantial piece of freehold property within inner suburban London with a main hall, storage facilities and adequate space to undertake external Scouting and other activities. However, alike with any other business or domestic premises we have to pay our way finding funds for Rates - Water and Business; Gas;

Electricity; Media Communications; Property, Equipment, Contents and Vehicle Insurances and, as with any premises owner or householder, maintain our land and the trees and buildings upon it in a reasonable condition. Indeed, as an organization dealing with Youth and other members of the public, the standards we are required to maintain are much higher than normal "Housekeeping". Also being a Scout Group and a Registered Charity, we are classified as a "Commercial" organization and thus all tariffs charged to us reflect this classification.

The ways that the necessary funds are raised to meet these commitments are limited and all require the

assistance of the Leaders, Trustees, **parents** of the Youth of the Group and other adults. Leaders and other adults working with the 1st New Cross are **unpaid volunteers** giving their time and expertise for the benefit of the local Community. All Leaders and Executive members have to undergo mandatory training courses to suit their position in the Group, often at locations away from home and for weekends or longer periods. This is in addition to planning and running Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings each week; planning and running activities, camps and expeditions; keeping attendance and financial records; attending Scouters' meetings within the Group and within the Scout District; attending Group Executive meetings and serving on various sub-committees for fund-raising or maintenance - the list is endless. On top of all this most of our Leaders still find time to organize fund-raising events and undertake valuable work around the buildings and grounds. It is extremely sad to find that after all this effort, which is really for the benefit of other people's children, many of our fundraising events are so poorly attended, and frequently have to be cancelled due to the apparent apathy of those to whom our facilities are aimed.

Whilst we are not permitted to hire out our premises for gain upon penalty of losing the Business Rates discount, a number of other organizations and individuals have made use of our premises and afforded donations towards establishment costs, and for this we are very grateful. Fixed rate donations have also been made by other Scout Groups and individuals towards the running costs of the Mini-bus and trailer. The figure for the running costs of the Mini-bus does not usually include fuel. Where the vehicle is used by external parties, the vehicle leaves our Headquarters full of fuel and is returned in the same manner. When used by the First New Cross, fuel costs are included within the individual Accounts for camps, expeditions, etc.

Every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout (and Explorer) is required to pay an Annual Membership fee (or Capitation) to the Scout Association and this is collected as part of weekly subscriptions. This is not First New Cross money; we merely collect the fee and pay it on annually through Lewisham Scout District and this year was a total of £4,455.00. The Membership Fee goes towards paying the costs of all the many services provided by the Scout Association for its juvenile and adult members including the upkeep of Headquarters' Camping and Activity sites such as Gilwell Park. Most importantly perhaps, this fee covers the Insurances provided for all members of the Scout Association whilst taking part in any recognised Scouting activity. Currently (2022) the Membership Fee stands at £55.00 per head per year; that equates to approximately £1.55 per week for each of the weeks that the Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop meet in an average year - good value for all the activities, adventure and knowledge available.

ii. 2021/2022 Results.

There has been an increase in our earnings this year and this is largely due to donations received for the use of our premises which have increased since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Attendance for fundraising events has increased but could still be much better than it is if the events were more widely supported. Once again, the lack of backing for the Gift Aid system has contributed to this. All parents will be requested to complete a Gift Aid form, if they are able to, to afford us the opportunity of claiming 25% back in Gift Aid. For subscriptions from April 2022 this should not be a problem as Online Scout Manager will be used to collect subscriptions and event payments and Gift Aid information will be automatically generated.

The continuing increases in necessary expenditure emphasizes the need for a substantial contingency figure to be contained in the annual establishment costing and how important it is for parents/guardians of the Youth within the First New Cross to be supportive of our aims and needs, otherwise this 114 year old Scout Group, probably the oldest extant Scout Group in the World, could be forced to close, thus depriving your children and the rest of the local neighbourhood of any Scouting provision.

Excluding the monies generated purely for the benefit of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (weekly subscriptions, camp fees, etc.), the majority of our income came from a Business Grant from Lewisham Council for £11,484.79; the use of our Headquarters for educational and social occasions, and for use of the Mini-bus and trailer, and some Fund-Raising events organised by the Executive Committee and the Leaders. These have not been many events in number this year but we did manage a table sale raising £283.80, a Christmas Raffle raising £356.40 and a Bonfire Evening raising £522.00, but we hope that next year will afford a greater variety such as Quiz, Fireworks, Community Fun Day, Karaoke Night, Jingle Mingle, and New Years' Eve event, which although better than recent years, only generated a fraction of our required income. We also secured amounts from online outlets such as Easyfundraising - £297.84, Lewisham Lottery - £103.50 and Smile Amazon - £104.87. A very special effort was made by Jamie Gregory-White by running in the Run or Dye Event raising £600 through sponsorship and also £500 through a corporate donation - fantastic work Jamie! All liaison and other arrangements regarding the use of our premises and the mini-bus by third parties falls to two or three Warranted and unpaid Leaders who already have their Uniformed Sections to run plus their own homes and paid work. It can therefore be disappointing and demoralising if fund-raising and/or social events organised for the benefit of other people's children are poorly supported by the parents of those same children and even having to be cancelled at the last minute for lack of interest, so your support in future events would be much appreciated.

Income Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) is claimed back from HMRC one year in arrears. We made no claim since the 2015/16 Financial Year for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMRC, late receipt of the necessary application forms, a computer error and most importantly, a dearth of signed Gift Aid forms from parents/guardians of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group in that year. A circulation of all parents/guardians will be made with new and revised Gift Aid forms. For all weekly subscriptions paid, we can claim a further 25% amounting to around **£1,000** each year and thus we ask all parents/guardians who are able, to sign the appropriate Gift Aid form. This is a genuine method of raising funds without any impact upon the time or pockets of the parents/guardians of this Scout Group's Youth.

The outgoings upon Utilities including Business and Water Rates, Gas, Electricity, Phone & Broadband and Insurances were largely within our budgetary expectations. Due to the impending ULEZ restrictions we had to scrap our minibus as it did not comply with the regulations regarding emissions but we were able to apply to Transport for London under their Scrappage Scheme and we secured a £7,000 scrappage allowance. We had to source a new minibus and did so through a company in Bournemouth that specializes in buses for youth organisations. We were able to secure a vehicle with very low mileage that was four year's old and in excellent condition at a cost of £21,000 after negotiating a discount with them. This cost was offset with the use of the money from the Scrappage Scheme. Under recent legislation, all minibuses used by Youth organisations also has to have 10-weekly safety checks which is an added cost and quite expensive at £857.94, although that does include an annual service and MOT test. A tow bar also had to be fitted at a cost of £573.16. Almost all of the other mini-bus expenditure shown relates to running costs. That said, the cost of minibuses has risen since our purchase, largely because of ULEZ, and a bus the same as the one that we have is now costing in excess of £26,000.

Following a request to our Water service providers for bill as we hadn't received one for over a year, we were shocked in November 2021 to receive notification that they considered that we owed them in excess of £7,500 due to a water leak from 2018 that had not been included on previous bills received. We have contested this and been told by the Consumer Council for Water that we have to go through the company's complaints procedure first before they can intervene, which we have been doing, although we are having to pay substantial instalments monthly to offset the figure whilst the complaint is being dealt with. We hope that this will be resolved soon and that we will be reimbursed the majority of the money paid. Should the Water company rule against us, we will get the CCW involved.

Business and Water Rates are due on 1st April 2022 and will be followed by Utility Bills each quarter, annual Insurance and Mini-bus costs and funds must be raised to cover these mandatory outgoings. All expenditure save Utility, other mandatory bills and routine housekeeping is laid before the Executive Committee for approval.

The Number 2 Bank account shows an increase in funds however this is due to deposits made and fundraising that has taken place for the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea which in turn is paid on to County. This is normally undertaken by District but First New Cross and Golden Hind ESU are the only persons selected from Lewisham District, so is being done at Group level. We are fortunate to have 5 young people selected for South Korea and a further 14 young people selected for the Croatia Trip, both in 2023. We also have a number of leaders selected for both trips.

The Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit are not part of the First New Cross Scout Group but are "controlled" both administratively and financially directly by Lewisham Scout District as is normal procedure laid down in the Policy, Organization and Rules of the Scout Association. Nevertheless they are part of the First New Cross "Scouting family" sharing our Headquarters and facilities and with some Adults serving in both the First New Cross (1NX) and the Golden Hind (GHESU).

F. Comments upon the Future

We aim to continue to maintain and strengthen our position in terms of numbers and the quality of Scouting available to the local community as always.

There continues to be recruitment campaigns through our website and social media with regard to bringing more children into the adventure that is Scouting (even though we have waiting lists currently), together with recruiting more adults to serve as leaders or on the Executive Committee and/or as officers of the Group. We will need to maintain the retention of our leaders in the sections and we need to also maintain the youth membership to keep them interested in staying with us particularly in the Scout Section as increasing schoolwork can put increased pressures on this age group. Leader training will continue to be a priority. The Group will continue to promote itself through recruitment campaigns to ensure that Scouting in Brockley is properly maintained. We are all very pleased to be back to face to face Scouting and long may that last

The efforts of the maintenance team and others have helped to keep our premises in a reasonable condition which will need to be continued. A work weekend will usually be scheduled within the summer break to tackle any work that needs doing. The pathways to the premises would all benefit from being resurfaced and we propose to apply for a grant for this. The substantial trees on our property will also be required to be pollarded/reduced as they are now substantially overgrown and we have now received a grant from Morrisons which will allow the majority of this work to be done and also raised bed vegetable boxes to be purchased. We will however need to look into applying for another grant to get the residue of the trees, not covered by this grant, to be pollarded/reduced. Therefore our fundraising efforts may need to be raised to encompass part of the cost albeit to offset our contribution to any grant application, as is usually expected.

Full details of our conventional fundraising and social events have not been finalised and we will advise on dates for these as soon as we are able to. Hopefully Fund Raising events for the remainder of 2021 will be discussed and finalised soon, together with those for the period until the end of March 2022, later in

November by the Group Fund Raising Sub-Committee and finalised at the Group Executive Committee meeting.

The 2022 Group Fundraising calendar as it stands is:

- 21ST MAY 2022 – RACE NIGHT – Cancelled – New Date to be Advised
- 18TH JUNE 2022 – SUMMER FAYRE
- 9TH JULY 2022 - QUIZ NIGHT – Cancelled – New Date to be Advised
- 18TH SEPTEMBER 2022 – SPONSORED BRIDGE WALK
- 15TH OCTOBER 2022 - KARAOKE EVENING
- 1ST NOVEMBER 2022 – LAUNCH OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 12TH NOVEMBER 2022 - BONFIRE EVENING
- 13TH NOVEMBER 2022 – REMEMBRANCE PARADE
- 16TH DECEMBER 2022 - JINGLE MINGLE including CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 31ST DECEMBER 2022 – NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT

The above events can also be used by those individuals involved in the World Scout Jamboree and Croatia Trips to undertake personal fundraising for their trip by running stalls or taking part in sponsored events.

We will continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile, which allows anybody to purchase goods on line acquiring a donation from the retailer for the Group at no extra cost to themselves. We will continue to promote the Lewisham Lottery which will help raise funds for the Group. We will continue to update our website and attempt to include as many links as possible to assist navigation of other associated sites and to provide our members with up to date information of Group, District and County activities and events.

We are fairly unique in Inner London in having a freehold property with a fairly large plot of land. Our conservation of this area is to be maintained, not only with consideration of our own use for training, games and camping, but also for the benefit of wildlife, of which there is evidence of substantial species. We see our husbandry of the trees and flora throughout the site as being a worthwhile legacy for the future. All youth Sections will continue to be encouraged to take part in the beneficial maintenance of the grounds.

The Group and GHESU will attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Deptford War Memorial in November 2022 representing Scouting in Lewisham.


This coming year will again be a challenge given the amount that we need to achieve however, with your help, we will achieve our goals. The teamwork and general enthusiasm shown by the Executive Committee, Section Leaders and general support from the District and its team needs to be carried forward and where possible improved upon. It is imperative that recruitment within the sections is ongoing and successful to ensure that numbers in the Group are maintained and where possible increased.

Generally, we are very optimistic for the immediate future, but we fully appreciate the hard work and dedication which will be required, as always, by all adult volunteers in the Group to achieve our desired aims, not least of which is the need to generate funds to allow our aims and objectives to be met and the First New Cross to continue its long, so far, 114 year existence. It is essential that the Group Executive Committee is retained and strengthened and that all members of the Group Council make every endeavour to assist in the provision of funds, suitably maintained premises and afford the opportunity for even better Scouting in our community. All new members of the Group Executive Committee MUST submit to a DBS check and undertake a minimal amount of training. Should any parents wish to serve on this committee

please speak with any leader who will pass on your details to the Group Scout Leader. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

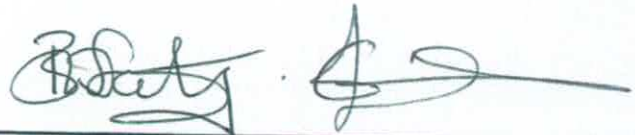
The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:



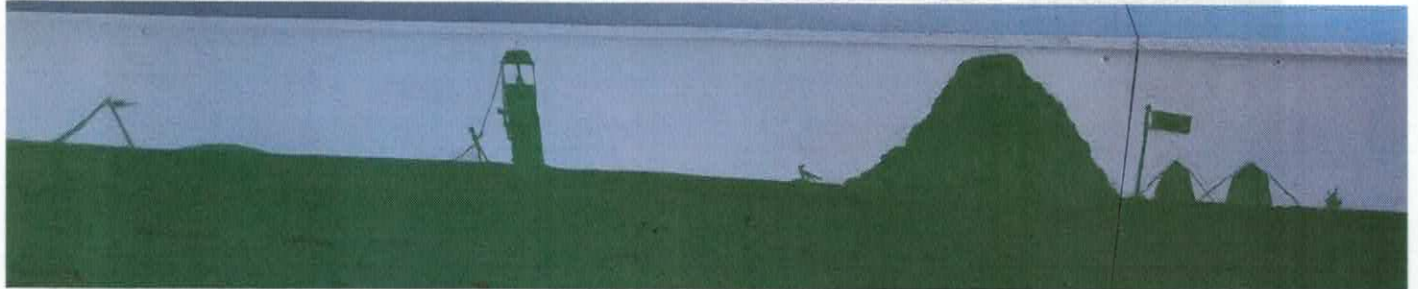
David Fricker, Chairman.

Dated: 19/08/2022



Brian Sweeting/Liz Fricker, Group Scout Leaders.

Dated: 19/08/2022



Section Reports

2021/22



Squirrel Section Report

February 2022 – March 2022

Our year

In September 2021 the Squirrel Section for 4-5 year olds (early years) was officially launched nationwide by the Scout Association and a seed of an idea was planted in my head 'what if we opened our own drey?'

Autumn 2021 - the plan

Questions asked and answered, feelers put out for possible leaders, review of the waiting list for young people and decision made. We had meetings to discuss programme, names, training and what materials we needed to purchase. A date in January was proposed to open, a list of new Squirrels drawn up and all the paperwork sorted. Then just before we sent the invites to join there was a surge in Omicron cases so we took the decision to postpone launch until after February half term.



Spring 2022 - opening

On 23rd February 2022 we had our very first Squirrel Drey meeting with parents and visitors from the County team. Everything ran very well and we had a red and white balloon arch and a special Squirrel cake made by Skippy (Liz-GSL). We had 14 young people to start us off and we soon got to know their individual characters. The first few weeks were quite challenging as it was so new to all of us but eventually we settled in to a routine and set guidelines of expected behaviour with the Squirrels.



At present we are the only open Squirrel Drey in South London and have high demand for places. We plan to increase numbers gradually going up to 24 in September when our first group of older ones will 'wiggle' up to Beavers.



The future holds lots of exciting adventures with a planned cinema trip, a visit to the fire station and celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.

From all the Squirrel leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Beaver Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our year

The end of another Beavers year, and it certainly was a challenging one.

April brought back to face to face meetings. We welcomed all the old Beavers back along with 6 new ones, bringing our numbers up to 20.

Summer Term 2021

After returning to meeting at the hut we made sure we stayed outside covering the gardening badge, planting seeds, creating pictures and learning about the tools needed when gardening.

On starting back at Beavers in September, we welcomed Nafisi as a new leader to our group. Although Nafisi's stay was brief, we are grateful for the help she gave.

The start of our 2021/22 program saw 5 Beavers moving up to Cubs. All five were close to finishing their bronze awards which was quite an achievement as they had been deprived of face-to-face scouting.

This term saw the Beavers continue working on the gardening badge, sowing seeds and planting beans. We have had lots of happy beavers showing how well their beans had grown. The Beavers took part in a spy night with the Beaver's cracking codes and working out clues to puzzles set to them. They also completed the Air activity badge with the Beavers making paper airplanes and testing their aerodynamic designs in a series of test. They also had to learn about three classic Aircrafts and learn the role that weather plays in air flight.

Winter Term 2021

In our Winter term we welcomed two new Beavers as we had Beavers move up to Cubs. Due to the demand for places, our colony increased to 24.

Beavers had their first Beaver sleepover since covid became a reality here at the hut and as part of the sleep over, they visited the Maritime Museum.

Beavers had a great time with the games that had been laid out, giving them the opportunity to work as part of a team as well as the opportunity to improve on their problem-solving skills. The sleepover was a great success!



The rest of the term our Beavers worked on the cook badge, learning about healthy foods and hygiene and safety in the kitchen, Beavers also created their own individual pizzas which they all couldn't wait to eat. A parent on seeing the work we did that night and being a dietitian came and gave a talk about the importance of eating healthy as she wanted to give the Beavers more in-depth information. Beavers took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and for Christmas we completed the creative badge with some creative Christmas decorations, and finished our last week with some fun games and a Christmas party.

We started January with 22 beavers, as 2 more of our Beavers swam up to Cubs. Beavers this term covered a range of different badges, from the Emergency Aid badge, learning what to do if they come across someone in medical distress to the Photographer badge learning what makes a good or bad picture and enjoying learning terms such as limb chops.



Spring Term 2022

This brought us to the Spring term and our Beaver numbers had increased to 25, an amazing achievement in growing the colony and a testament to the work that has been done by our leadership team. However, as our Beaver numbers increased, our leadership numbers decreased by one with the unfortunate passing of the 1st New Cross Beaver Leader and District Assistant Beavers Commissionaire Michelle Buckle. The group, especially us Beaver leaders and Beavers will truly miss an amazingly kind and warm leader whose years of experience and know-how will be hard to be replicate. Beavers that were fortunate to have her as a leader I'm sure will have wonderful memories of Beavers and scouting largely due to her.

Beavers completed in this term the International and Space badges, In Michelle's memory the district easter egg hunt that she was in the process of organising took place at Frylands, this also was the location of the District Beaver Sleepover, A few of our lovely Beavers and one of our Young Leaders had the honour of being invested on their first Beavers nights away camp.



Heading into the spring term 24 beavers was within our colony. We were glad to have Zoe join us a Beaver leader an amazing bonus for our beavers and comes with additional family support. Beavers concentrated on completing three badges, Beavers Skills challenge badge, which had the beavers working together to solve puzzles such as river crossing and bridge building and doing activities to promote healthy eating and den building. The second was the newly formed badge Money Skills, which focused on the history of money and taught Beavers to distinguish between items they need for survival and items they want for enjoyment. We finished the term with Beavers completing elements of the Outdoor Challenge Badge culminating in an organised water balloon/water gun fight.

This Beaver Year could not have been possible without the amazing leadership and support that was given to the Beavers. From Debbie taking over while Michelle was absent, to Jacquie helping out when she can. To Peter still being Involved when other priorities understandably occupied his focus. To Alex becoming a parent helper even though her child is not part of our beaver family yet to the young leaders who stepped up on occasion without being asked and enabled weekly session to run. This 2021/2022 Beaver term can simply be summed up in one word Teamwork.

At the end of the 2021/2022 program, we saw 6 of our Beavers moving up into the Cub section. We are sad to see them leave but happy to meet 6 new Beavers that will be moving up from the newly formed Squirrel Section. With the dedication of our leadership team and the support of the group as a whole I'm sure they will continue to enjoy their scouting experience with us.



From all the Beaver leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Cub Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our year

This year we increased the pack size to 30! We now have approximately 25 turning up each week! We have had a fantastic year and have done lots of different things.

Summer Term 2021

The summer term saw us brushing up on those key camping skills and even some navigation skills with Mountain Boy (much to Akela's enjoyment as she can't read a map very well) the cubs walked away with a level 2 navigation badge for their camp blankets. July saw us going to Frylands Wood for an activity day where we took part in archery and using the traverse wall where Akela kept her feet firmly on the ground. At our end of year party in the park we said a sad goodbye to 5 cubs who then joined the scout troop in September. We were sad to see them go but wished them well on their continued scouting journey.

Autumn / Winter Term 2021



We came roaring back in September with a get to know you session then we had 9 cubs go to eagle

heights with the scouts and visit the huskies and birds of prey. Following on from this we had Kaa's fiancée come in and run the air activities level 1 badge and then gained another leader. We welcomed Rama (Sam) into the pack. We also

invited our parents for a skills challenge night where we showed off our tea making skills and followed this by some Investments and awarding of badges, this was a special night for all. After the October half term, we then welcomed Matt and Katie to two pack nights where they kindly ran the digital maker level 1 for the cubs, the cubs enjoyed being able to programme the microbots and we were grateful for the help. Kestrel took the reins and introduced the new money skills badge to the cubs. December also saw Kestrel stepping down as the Cub Scout leader and Akela taking over. I would like to say a huge thank you to Kestrel for all the help and support she has given me, and I can only hope I can fill her shoes.

Actual camps

Akela had this amazing idea to go camping at the end of November! And 24 cubs, 2 young leaders and 5 adults agreed (What were we thinking) once again we trekked to Frylands



Woods for a weekend of indoor camping as Akela is not as crazy as the scouts! The 24 cubs took part in air rifle shooting, making pizzas, learning some knots, and taking part in some winter themed activities. During that weekend Akela already had 2 more camps half planned! Unfortunately due to the cold we closed the camp a little bit earlier than expected, as we didn't want frozen cubs, although we did try to lose them without success much to our parents' disappointment. Camp was enjoyed by all and I can't wait to take the pack again, only this time in the spring/summer. Our Cub of the Camp was Ronell who always sets an amazing example for the cubs and we decided to promote him to sixer.

February 2022 saw us invite the senior cubs who were due to go up to scouts in April join us for an overnight stay at the hut to complete the outdoor challenge and the adventure challenge badges. One cub managed to achieve his personal

challenge, which is amazing! We also had one cub who completed his silver award on camp!



Spring Term 2022

We started off 2022 with a bit of a bang and we thought about what we wanted to achieve in 2022 and more importantly as a cub. Unfortunately we then had to go back to zoom for two weeks as lots of cubs came down with the dreaded covid but we made it through the personal safety badge and a session on lego. We have continued with working our way through badges, and Kaa ran a lovely night on our founder Lord Baden- Powell. We also celebrated Lunar New Year by making cards and dragons. In February 8 cubs got to go the low tide creek walk along with the Scouts, this provided a great opportunity for the Cubs who went to start their linking process.

Cinders had us making pots of gold out of clay for St Patrick's day, and the cubs enjoyed making a mess!

Leader training

In September Akela finished off her wood badge and Kaa followed shortly after. This is a great achievement for them both so well done. Rama is working his way through to get his wood badge.

December also saw Akela agreeing to go on a county trip next year to Croatia as part of the leadership team.

February saw Chil get a place on the international service team for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in the summer of 2023, we are

extremely proud of her and wish her all the success with fundraising!

Please join us at the AGM to see us award the Cubs their Chief Scout Silver award and to find out who is our Cub Scout of the Year for 2021/2022.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us during this strange year and encouraged the Cubs to keep going. A massive well done to the Cubs for being so understanding and hardworking during the pandemic. Thank you to all the Cub Leaders as we know it has been a hard year and we have all needed to lean on and support each other. Thank you to the incredible 1NX team. We have come together during a difficult time and have kept Scouting going strong for our group.

More Camping awaits!

Jo (Akela), Debbie (Kestrel), Shelby (Kaa), Lili (Chil), Matt (Cinders), Sam (Rama) and Rafe (Rikki)

Cub Scout Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Scout Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our Year – Post COVID

We are 34 fun loving, adventure seeking, noisy Scouts and some very fantastic leaders.

April

Our year started off with a virtual Easter camp, we are sure all will agree that we never want to have a 'virtual' camp ever again. Scouting is at its best when we are going on adventures, having fun, making friends, getting outdoors, expressing our creativity, and experiencing the wider world in person, not stuck inside on a video call.

Summer Camp

As we recovered from COVID, our annual summer camp took us closer to home than normal. Dartford, at Hope Hill Scout campsite



We slept in Hammocks under the stars, a few Scouts even slept in the maggots tent! We chatted around the campfire, shared our best jokes, told silly stories. Went mountain biking, learnt how to sleep in a makeshift bivvy. It rained that night but the bivvys were well built and in fact waterproof. We also dealt with a midnight visit from an alien, but we have been advised to not talk about that.

A big highlight was the visit to Cyclopark, our Scouts learnt some fantastic skills and it was great to be outside after being stuck inside for so long.

After many years of top-notch summer camps. This was Debbie last, so thank you Debbie, and thank you for trusting the scout leaders to take the summer camp baton forward.

September

We went to Eagle Heights with the cubs, it was a great chance for the younger section to meet and spend time with the Scouts. It was nice to see them getting on and making friends across the sections.

We made pals with Huskies and got to eat pizza around a campfire with them. Our older Scouts got to camp in a dome circle tent thing. (There was electricity and beds inside, this is unheard of luxury on a camp!!) the Scouts have requested all camps are like this one in future.

Our Scouts got out their OS Maps and compasses to plan a hike around the local town of Eynsford. We didn't get lost, but the leaders did get soaked in the river!! It was terrific to see the Scout's navigation skills being used in the real world.



October

Our eldest Scouts completed their expedition challenge award. They hiked and camped on their own over 2 days, they rested at Hammer Wood camp site. Rumour has it that the Scouts didn't go to sleep until 3am. The leaders do not believe that. These Scouts got to the end of the hike before us!!! Thank you to Bill Compton for the suggestion of Hammer Wood & thank you Hammer Wood for the free badges!! The leaders are so proud of these scouts. WELL DONE on your award!!



November

Winter Camp happened, as expected this was a cold camp, our was kitchen frozen and so were our tents. Since scouts are always prepared this was no problem for us. Scouts went on an adventure scavenger hunt around Selsdon woods. They enjoyed it and since this was a very tricky hunt the leaders learnt some great lessons too!!

We got to use the new Frylands pizza oven, turns out that one of our scouts is a secret pizza chef. He will be opening Scout's pizza shop very soon!!

Scouts oversaw the cooking for this camp, they produced great menu ideas and were terrific cooks too! The leaders are hoping this becomes a tradition on all future camps.



This camp was a permit camp for Matt, and we are happy to say the permit was granted and no Scouts were lost or harmed permanently during the gaining of the permit.



January

We were back conquering London for the Monopoly Run along with 1000's of Scouts and Guides, racing across London and buying up as much property as possible. We took a lot of tubes, did a lot of walking, got photos in a black cab, visited the toilets of the Savoy Hotel, did not lose any Scouts and we improved our score from last year! Although we did forget to check in at the first location, there is always next year.

Late in January we found out 2 of the Scout Leaders, Katie and Roe will be part of the international service team at the next Jamboree in Korea. Well done to them both, such great leaders!!

February

We went mud larking, for a laugh! It's really important Scouts explore their local environment so we took a visit to Creekside Discovery Centre, to spend an morning in the river and an afternoon doing STEM activities. The Scouts told us it was interesting learning about the river and its local history.



March

Easter Camp happened. Now Scouts are always prepared but turns out it's colder on an Easter camp than a Winter camp. No problem for the Scouts! With even more of the kitchen frozen and tent zips stuck we still got to take part in cool activities around Frylands.

The scouts learnt how to maintain our axes and saws and how to use them to build a great campfire to keep us warm for the weekend. There were several fun activities at Frylands we took part in.

This camp was for Roe to gain their nights away permit, they did. So, a MASSIVE WELL DONE to getting your permit Roe.

All the section leaders at Scouts now have a nights away permit, we think this is a super fantastic achievement, so here it is in writing for the archives WELL DONE SCOUT LEADERS, you rock!!!



The end bit

We have been joined by some fantastic new section assistants this year. James in February 2021, Trev in April 2021, Oweis in March 2022, and Keremcan in April 2022. These new members of the group have been so great. It's been so nice seeing them bond with the Scouts and become part of the team. Thank you for what you do. You are amazing!

This year, our always there for you great Group Scout Leader retired (he hasn't gone, he is just the treasurer now) the Scout section would like him to know what a great help and support he was to us and made our roles as Scout Leaders so much easier. Brian, thank you for being our GSL, 10 out of 10, would recommend.

This means we now have a new GSL, they have already been on two camps with us!! The Scout section is very impressed, so thank you and welcome Liz. We look forward to you being our GSL for many years to come.

Thank you to the parents for your continued support and friendly chats we have when you drop off your Scout, we really like it.

And of course, thank you Scouts, well done for a great year, your leaders are very proud of what you have achieved this year and seeing you bounce back after COVID is so good!! We can't wait to go on more adventures with you again next year.

Matt, Katie, Roe, Trev, Keremcan, James & Oweis
Scout Leaders



Learn more.

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Golden Hind Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022



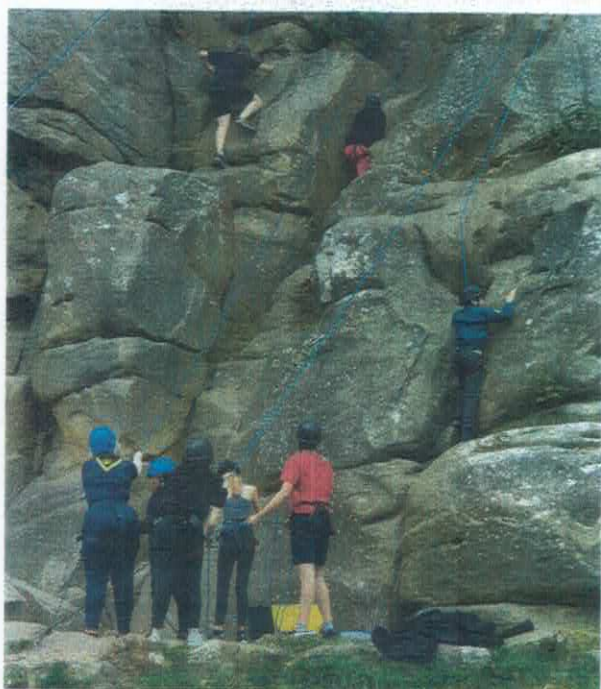
We have grown from 1 to 17 Explorers. A big part of our programme is DofE and the Explorers had an adventurous year preparing for their Expeditions by Canoe as well as undertaking Volunteering, Physical Activities and Skills. They have really enjoyed building friendships across units Explorers Units in South London.

Our year

Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit has continued to grow since our last AGM

What we got up to

Golden Hind ESU has really taken off this year and it's down to the awesome bunch of young people who come up to the hut each week to learn skills, work together and have fun and adventures. They are shaping and building the unit and setting us off on a great path. Since the Scout section is thriving, we want to make sure we have an exciting offer for young people when they move up into Explorers.



At this year's AGM, we are very proud to announce that 3 Explorers are to be awarded the Chief Scout Platinum award, and 2 Explorers have achieved the Chief Scout Diamond Award. Congratulations and well done to them!

Over the year we had 8 Explorers volunteering and training as Young Leaders who work with our younger sections. Samuel Peevor received a Jack Petchey award for his commitment to Scouting and chose to take the Unit Indoor Skydiving with his grant.

International trips

We are looking ahead to 2023 which will be a very exciting year for GHESU with 5 Explorers going off to Korea to represent South London at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea, alongside 40,000 Scouts from around the world. At the same time we'll have 7 Explorers trailblazing to Croatia, to be part of the County Expedition. We are very proud to have such a strong sense of adventure in the Unit and we know they will create some amazing memories.



Adventures

We have grown from 2 to 17 Explorers. A big part of our programme is DofE, and the Explorers had an adventurous year preparing for their Expeditions by Canoe, as well as undertaking Volunteering, Physical Activities and Skills. They have really enjoyed building friendships across units Explorer Units in South London.

We would like to say thank you to The Alpkite foundation, the Don Broome Scout Trust and Scout Headquarters for funding for helping us restart the unit after covid and purchase expedition equipment.

Without volunteers, these adventures can't happen. We encourage anyone who can bring a sense of adventure and a willingness to try something new to come on board and volunteer with Golden Hind ESU.



Katie and Jo

Explorer Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Group Accounts

1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022



THE FIRST NEW CROSS

(THE GREYS)

SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2021/22

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328.

Scout Registration No. 44935

First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Receipts

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Donations and Similar Income.		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	4,455.00	2,700.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	(4,455.00)	(2,700.00)
Membership Subscriptions - Section's use	2,492.16	2,268.88
Membership Subscriptions - Establishment	1,934.84	562.62
Donations - Puppy School, S.E. London	1,822.00	30.00
Donations – Other (Guides, Church, Secret Adventure, Parties etc)	8,518.38	1,587.67
- Mini-bus usage	848.13	90.00
- Mini-bus Scrappage Scheme & Vehicle Tax Refund	7,137.50	-----
- Grant from Lewisham Council	11,484.79	10,000.00
- Start Up Grant for Squirrels	500.00	-----
Gift Aid (<i>See note in Annual report</i>)	-----	-----
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc.	8,975.00	2,091.06
Morrisons Charity Grant for Veg Boxes & Tree Care	7,212.00	-----
Don Broome Trust Grant for Laptops	1,500.00	-----
Insurance Payout for Asbestos related loss of equipment	-----	4,900.00
	52,424.80	21,530.23
Fund Raising (Gross).		
Table Sale	283.80	-----
Easyfundraising	297.84	-----
Bonfire Evening	584.00	-----
Smile Amazon	164.87	-----
Lewisham Lottery	103.50	-----
Scout Personal Fundraiser (Jamie G-W)	1,100.00	-----
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	356.40	1,040.00
Other fundraising activities	118.69	1,366.27
	3,009.10	2,406.27
Investment Income.		
Deposit Account Interest	0.11	1.45
Total Gross Income	55,434.01	23,937.95

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Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Payments

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Charitable Payments.		
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc.	11,816.58	2,302.61
Council Tax (Business Rates)	636.81	-----
Water & Sewerage	2,723.00	-----
Electricity & Gas	1,414.22	1,041.09
Property & Equipment Insurance	1,268.36	1,268.36
Telephone & Broadband	609.34	504.60
Mini-bus running costs (Road Tax, Insurance, MoT, Purchase, etc.)	24,243.56	1,533.51
Maintenance - H.Q. and Grounds	706.91	13,188.01
Equipment, furniture, etc.	524.83	5,760.42
Online Scout Manager Costs	410.82	-----
Morrisons Charity funded works	912.00	-----
Don Broome Trust Laptop Purchase	1,699.90	-----
Start Up Grant for Squirrels - Usage	414.60	-----
Other Establishment costs (formerly Misc. costs, Zettle charge etc.)	1,581.72	359.22
	48,962.65	25,957.82
Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)		
Table Sale	-----	-----
Easyfundraising	-----	-----
Bonfire Evening	62.00	-----
Smile Amazon	-----	-----
Lewisham Lottery	-----	-----
Scout Personal Fundraiser (Jamie G-W)	-----	-----
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	-----	94.99
Other fundraising activities	-----	-----
	62.00	94.99
Total Gross Expenditure	49,024.65	26,052.81
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	(6,409.36)	(-2,114.86)
Cash funds this year end	44,918.04*	38,508.68*

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328.

Scout Registration No. 44935

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Statement of Assets at the end of the year.


31st March 2022

	31st March 2022	31st March 2021
	£	£
Cash Funds.		
Bank Current Account (No.1 General Funds)	41,005.44	35,372.95
Bank Current Account (No.2 Expeditions)	2,645.41	1,353.66
Deposit Account (C.O.I.F.)	361.35	361.24
PayPal Charity Account Balance	512.50	0.00
Cash/Floats	393.34	1,420.83
Total Cash Funds	44,918.04	38,508.68
 Non-monetary assets for own use.		
Land and Buildings	190,000.00	190,000.00
Mini-bus	21,000.00	5,115.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	10,000.00
	220,800.00	205,115.00

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees
on the 6th Day of July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



..... **Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer**



..... **David Fricker, Group Chairman**

Mrs Rebecca Warren
2 Ruses Cottages
Hall Street
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9JF
30th August 2022

SCUTINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE 1ST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31st March 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider that neither the audit nor the independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution; and with particular reference to the Scout Association's Guidance on the Accounting and Audit Requirements – Fact Sheet LT103950 appendix 3; I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on the preceding pages.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records and supporting information and explanations produced to me and comply with the constitution. It should be noted the land and buildings are registered with Land Registry under the title of The Scout Association Trust Corporation. I can confirm that no income or receipts were subject to special restrictions which need to be shown in the accounts.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Warren