

2nd Cliffe Scout Group

The Scout hut,

Thatchers lane

Cliffe

ME3 7RE

Trustee's Annual Report For the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1023292 . This document is issued to demonstrate compliance with the Charities Act 2011 in demonstrating our purpose and activities as being for the public benefit and that the trustees have demonstrated regard to the commission's guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Trustees for the period.

Matthew Webb	Cub leader	
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Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. The Scout Association's governing document is a royal charter which 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 these rules which are common to all Scout groups. At the previous AGM, we reconfirmed our use of the model constitution as laid out in Policy, Organisation and Rules 5.4. The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR). The group is managed by an elected board of trustees, comprising a Group Chairperson, Group Scout Leader, Group Treasurer and Group Secretary along with individual section leaders, parent's representatives and others nominated onto the committee for their knowledge or skills.

The Group Board of Trustees exists and is carefully selected to ensure Scouting is run safely, legally and in line with our charitable purpose. They must be confident that:

- The charity is well managed, carrying out its purpose for the public benefit,
- Our activities comply with our governing document and the law,
- We are following POR and the rules of the Charity Commission
- Young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
- The group has sufficient resources to meet the planned work of the group. The group has systems that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement and loss. These include requiring two signatories for all payments made by any section within the group, expenditure of a certain amount being approved by a wider group of leaders, maintaining a risk register of potential risks to the charity and mitigating against these and insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Objectives of the group

The objectives of the group are as part of the wider Scout Association. The purpose of the Scout Association is “to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.” This is achieved through the Scout Method which states that “Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun;
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors;
- learn by doing; • share in spiritual reflection;
- take responsibility and make choices;
- undertake new and challenging activities;
- and make and live by their Promise.”

We are guided by the Values of Scouting which are:

- Integrity: We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect: We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care: We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief: We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation: We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends. In line with the Scout Association, our goals to 2025 are based around achieving:
 - Growth; enabling more young people and adult volunteers to benefit from scouting and the skills it gives them.
 - Inclusivity; ensuring barriers to inclusion are removed and working to build tolerance.
 - Community impact; making a difference in our local and global community.
 - Youth-shaped; ensuring our young people get a voice in scouting, share their experiences and take on leadership roles.

Activities

2nd Cliffe participated in a number of activities in 2022 including Connect 22 an event at Lower Grange farm based for the older groups of scouts and explorers giving all participants a chance to try new skills and experiences.

Kent international Jamboree in July at Detling showground a huge camp of scouts from all around the world giving all who attended the opportunity to try a number of different skills, earn badges and interact with other groups and cultures across the scouting community from all over the world. This is generally restricted to scouts, explorers and any network participants.

Cuboree camp oct 2022

This was held at Kingswood Ashford a purpose built venue for all scouting activities and included all at cub age and abilities. The camp gave all cubs the chance to try new skills and activities not always open to others. It builds confidence and gives the opportunities to stay away from home in a controlled and safe environment.

Buckmore park camp November 2022

We set up camp at Buckmore Park giving the opportunity to gain campong and survival experience in a tailored and monitored safe environment.

November also saw the beavers attend a winter walk event at Yew tree farm where orientation and navigation skills were learnt and supported.

We held a few fundraising events at the scout hut which all include enriching games, raffles, food available and experiences such as soft archery and soft axe throwing.

Bag packing at the local supermarket was attended well.

We have been able to recruit a number of new adult volunteers this year to support in some roles within the group. Our efforts still continue as more are needed in certain sections to ensure sustainable growth and support, and Young Leaders have been fewer in number this year.

Achievements

By the end of the year, the group had grown again, with the back end of covid finally making it easier for attendance and the induction of a number of additional volunteers into the Cubs and Scout sections in particular. Satisfaction with the group remains high and young people were able to make their thoughts known to the trustees. The year ended with all adults fully compliant in their roles and with their training following months and years of hard effort from the volunteers concerned and those who support the scheme.

With the success of the bag packing with so much support and positivity coming from the local community we hope to continue with the charitable act in years to come.

The fundraisers held at the scout hut brought an insight into what the group and scouting in a whole can bring to all in the community and the enrichment of experiences available to the younger generation of the community.

We were able to purchase equipment to ensure future fundraisers to be a success, these include a doughnut machine, an embroidery machine and a badge press.

Through these activities, the Trustees are confident that the Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial overview

While membership within the group increased by the end of the year, this was primarily through the restrictions on social distancing after the emergence of the covid restrictions. Therefore, membership fees increased substantially compared to the previous year from £12,969.23 to £19,078.69. 2022 was a very busy year for activities, so income from activity fees increased £443.41 in line with expectations. There was a notable increase in donations this year being £570 in the year to 31 March 2023 and £nil in the previous year. The group was able to join up to "easy fundraising" for the group a buying platform that sees donations awarded to the group.

A number of new camping equipment was purchased for the group £2634 was spent on new tents and camping essentials.

Expenses on repairs, renewals, stationary, uniform and badges and cleaning rose substantially due to group being open and running and utilities saw a large increase for this reason also.

2023 saw the Coronation, with a commemorative badge purchased for each member of the group, but this required fewer badges than the year before when there were three events where all members received badges (The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, In Remembrance of the Queen and Remembrance Sunday).

Charitable expenditure compared to last year saw a further increase of around 80% with notable price increases on the different unavoidable costs associated with our running and the emergence from covid restrictions.

As expected, rises in the costs of insurance, materials and equipment was experienced. Utility bills increased from £757 in 2022 to £2534 in the year to 31 March 2023. Venue maintenance increased from £743 in 2022 to £2726 in the year to 31 March 2023 as expected as all the doors were upgraded to fire safe doors and a security alarm was installed.

4. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Income & Expenditure account	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Income		
Bank Interest	51	2
Donation	570	0
Events	0	648
Events - Beavers	387	445
Events - Cubs	760	1,820
Events - Scouts	3,455	1,097
Events - Squirrels	500	0
Events Group	0	648
Fundraising	2,759	30
Hall Hire	1,740	893
Joining Fees	560	1,199
Membership Fees	19,079	12,969
Misc Payment	1,220	138
Total Income	31,080	19,889
Expenditure	£	£
Activity Equipment	2,910	46
Admin	1,365	721
Badges	1,123	1,024
Camping Equipment	2,634	0
Events	247	288
Events - Beavers	96	510
Events - Cubs	1,416	1,045
Events - Scouts	4,808	2,579
Insurance	780	814

Meetings	3,845	1,358
Meetings - Beavers	1,185	331
Meetings - Cubs	0	668
Meetings - Squirrels	206	0
Membership Costs	6,253	3,031
Rent	1,050	1,050
Utilities	2,534	757
Venue Maintenance	2,726	743

	33,177	14,964
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Surplus/(deficit) in the year	(2,097)	4,925
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	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
Bank account balances	£	£
Treasurers Account (Lloyds)	2,235	5,518
BB Inst Online (Lloyds)	15,689	15,638
Cash	1,340	205
	19,263	21,360

Summary		
Account balance brought forward 1 April	21,360	16,436
Total income	31,080	19,889
Total expenditure	33,177	14,964
Net income	(2,097)	4,925

Account balance carried 31 March 2023	19,263	21,360
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Reserves Policy

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. The Group's Board of Trustees considers that the group should hold the following reserves: • a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs (£8,000). • a fund for the replacement/maintenance of assets such as the hall and equipment (£1,500) • Section support (by request) (£500)

Investment Policy The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments and therefore has adopted a risk-averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks.

Future plans

With newer volunteers beginning to become confident in their roles, work continues to recruit and welcome more, especially into Squirrels and Beavers, to keep these sections sustainable and to enable growth in the numbers of young people in these sections. Our adult volunteers in the section continue to develop

their own skills, with a number working on achieving Adventurous Activity Permits so adventurous activities can be safely delivered by the group's adults.

All ages of the group continue to plan an ambitious array of events and residential activities even looking forwards to the next Kent international Jamboree.

In addition to maintenance days, we aim to complete some repairs to our facilities and complete some upgrades to our electrics to bring them into line with modern regulations.

Changes to Scout processes and rules are afoot in the coming future with the aim to demystify the organisation to prospective volunteers and parents, simplify some roles and strengthen the governance functions of the Trustee board by responding to recent changes. While the exact date for a number of these is unknown, some will begin to take effect in time of or before the next AGM. The group's leadership is ready for these Transformation changes, when they come within 2024 or 2025. In the meantime, compliance, great opportunities, and skills for life continue to drive the group.

Declarations

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the trustees of the 2nd Cliffe Scout group:

MATTHEW WEBB

Date: 31/03/2022

Independent Examiner

D Strachan

Chartered Accountant

Date