

2nd Cliffe Scout Group

The Scout hut,

Thatchers lane

Cliffe

ME3 7RE

Trustee's Annual Report For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

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 2023/2024 including 23/04/23 St Georges day parade, 19/04/23 St Georges day camp at Buckmore park, 30/04/23 cubs did an archery and air rifle competition and scouts did an archery and air rifling weekend camp, 06/05/23 all sections participated in a coronation parade in our local village, 13/05/23 a huge amount of beavers went to Legoland Windsor for the beaver invasion, 14/05/23 beaver and cub day was held in May at Lower Grange Farm, 21/05/23 District scouts ran a beaver day at Buckmore Park, 11/06/23 a charity 5 a side football match was held, 16/09/23 cub day at Lower Grange farm, 23/09/23 Golden box challenge was held for beaver and squirrel sections, 27/09/23 beavers attended Buckmore park for orienteering practice, 29/09/23 the annual Cuboree was held, 12/11/23 all sections participated in a remembrance Sunday parade, 24/02/23 Pinewood Derby was held and on 09/03/23 Cubs attended the RAF museum.

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 we have a few more Young Leaders volunteer this year.

Achievements

By the end of the year, the group has grown again, with the induction of a number of additional volunteers into the squirrel and beaver 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.

The hall was used for venue hire for a local children's charity.

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.

The beaver section decorated plant pots, planted bulbs and delivered them to a local nursing home for their enrichment.

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

Membership within the groups decreased slightly by the end of the year. Therefore, membership fees decreased compared to the previous year from £19,078.69 in 2023 to £17585.00 in 2024. In 2024 the amount of activities remained very similar to the previous year, so income from activity fees decreased slightly from £2910.00 in 2023 and £2805.00 in 2024 in line with expectations. There was a notable decrease in donations this year (2023 £570-2024: £75) and the group was able to continue to utilise "easy fundraising" for the group a buying platform that sees donations awarded to the group.

The group was able to Hire the hall to a local children's charity for a regular monthly sum for the year this enormously raised from £1740.00 2023 to £7060 in the financial year.

New equipment was purchased for the archery and rifle range and training courses were covered by the group at a cost of £320.

New fencing was erected around the new rifle range at the cost of £3470.00.

Expenses on venue maintenance increased substantially from £2726 2023 to £8859 2024 including new windows and some doors, renewals, stationary, uniform and badges and cleaning and rose from the previous year due new fencing being erected around the rifle and archery range all of these repairs and improvements were expected to improve the facilities within the groups and were achievable with the extra money acquired from hall hire

Some more new camping was purchased at the cost of £1984.

Admin fees increased with the addition of extra services purchased from Online Scout manager including upgrades to allow risk assessments to be generated by AI and accounting package.

We are recruiting new trustees onto the charity commission.

Income & Expenditure account	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Income		
Bank Interest	174.84	50.79
Donation	75	570
Events	769	0
Events - Beavers	389	386.50
Events - Cubs	2,448	759.50
Events - Scouts	20	3,455
Events - Squirrels	243	500
Fundraising	1,426.27	2,759.26
Hall Hire	7,060	1,740
Joining Fees	570	560
Membership Fees	17,585	19,078.69
Misc Payment	3,553.50	1,219.98
Total Income	34,313.61	31,079.72

Expenditure	£	£
Activity Equipment	2,805.22	2,910.46
Admin	2,234.31	1,364.99
Badges	922.14	1,123.41
Camping Equipment	1,983.98	2,634.48
Events	504.69	247.35
Events - Beavers	290.50	96
Events - Cubs	827.95	1,415.92
Events - Scouts	298.55	4,807.50
Events - Squirrels	150.55	0
Insurance	971.52	779.96
Meetings	5,726.69	3,844.50
Meetings - Beavers	92.65	1,184.91
Meetings - Squirrels	177	205.70
Membership Costs	5,419.50	6,252.55
Rent	1,050	1,050
Training	320	0

Utilities	2,103.23	2,533.73
Venue Maintenance	8,859.49	2,725.52
	<u>34,737.97</u>	<u>33,176.98</u>
Surplus/(deficit) in the year	<u>(1560.99)</u>	<u>(2,097)</u>

Bank account balances	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Treasurers Account (Lloyds)	481	2,235
BB Inst Online (Lloyds)	18,154	15,689
Cash	205	1,340
	<u>18,839</u>	<u>19,263</u>
Summary		
Account balance brought forward 1 April	19,263	21,360
Total income	34,314	31,080
Total expenditure	<u>34,738</u>	<u>33,177</u>
Net income	(424)	(2,097)
Account balance carried 31 March 2024	<u>18,839</u>	<u>19,263</u>

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 including census was within predicted perimeters at a cost of £5419.50

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.

In addition to maintenance days, we aim to complete some repairs to our facilities and complete some more upgrades to our electrics to bring them into line with modern regulations. We also are planning forward to completing the air rifle and archery range to offer a safe and fun facility on site.

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.

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: 31/03/2024

Independent Examiner

D Strachan

Chartered Accountant

Date