

2nd Cliffe Scout Group

The Scout hut,

Thatchers lane

Cliffe

ME3 7RE

Trustee's Annual Report For the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

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 few activities in 2024 giving all participants a chance to try new skills and experiences.

St Georges day camp Buckmore park April 2024

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

Pine wood Derby May 2024

Was well attended with all participants showing determination and skill by making and racing a car made from a block of wood.

Lower Grange farm May 24

Well attended by Beavers and Cub sections a day of learning new skills and experiencing new activities with an emphasis on team work this day is excellent to cover a lot of badge work in one day.

Teddy bear picnic June 2024

Attended by beavers with enriching outdoor activities to build confidence and new skills.

Cliffe D-Day celebrations June 2024

A fundraiser including a food stall, soft archery, soft axe throwing, slush, popcorn and drinks sold for funds for all sections.

Air rifle and archery competition June 2024

Cubs and scouts participated in an Archery and Air rifle competition at Lower grange farm a good number of our members attended.

Remembrance parade nov 2024

A parade in Cliffe to honour those who fought and lost their lives in the war.

Caving at Buckmore Park Mar 2025

Making use of the caving facilities at Buckmore Park this was restricted to scout ages only for safety reasons.

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. Stalls were charged an entrance fee.

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.

We are discussing opening another squirrel and scout section.

Achievements

By the end of the year, the group has reduced in size slightly due to children leaving however with induction of a number of additional volunteers into the beaver, Cubs and Scout sections in particular we hope this group to grow moving forward. 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 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.

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.

We will be introducing new trustees soon.

Financial overview

While membership within the group decreased slightly by the end of the year, Therefore, membership fees decreased slightly compared to the previous year from £17,585 in 2023/24 to £17,395 in the year to 31 March 2024/25.

2025 was not as busy as last year for activities, so income from activity fees decreased in line with expectations. There was a notable increase in donations this year (2023/24 £75 and 2024/25: £650) and the group was able to collect from "easy fundraising" for the group a buying platform that sees donations awarded to the group.

Expenditure was slightly higher this year at £35,577 compared to £34,737.97 in the previous year. This is not unexpected due to the level of repairs.

A fewer amount of new camping equipment was purchased for the group. In the year to 31 March 2024 this was £827. This compares to £1,984 in the year to 31 March 2025.

Expenses on repairs, renewals, stationary, uniform and badges and cleaning were as expected.

Census increased from £5,420 in the year to 31 March 2024 to £6,319 in the year to 31 March 2025 - a rise from scouting uk.

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.

As expected, rises in the costs of insurance, materials and equipment was experienced. Utility bills increased from £2,103 to 31 March 2024 to £3,197 in the year to 31 March 2025.

Venue maintenance reduced substantially from 23/24 £8,859 to 24/25 £2,242 with no major incidents needing repairs.

Rent payments have remained the same.

There was a small deficit in the year of £247. This compares to a deficit in the previous year of £424.

Income & Expenditure account	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Income		
Bank Interest	209	175
Donation	650	75
Events	1,453	769
Events - Beavers	100	389
Events - Cubs	905	2,448
Events - Scouts	5,262	20
Events - Squirrels	150	243
Fundraising	3,541	1,426
Hall Hire	5,277	7,060
Joining Fees	340	570
Membership Fees	17,395	17,585
Misc Payment	48	3,554
Total Income	35,329	34,314
Expenditure	£	£
Activity Equipment	1,721	2,805
Admin	1,770	2,234
Badges	206	922
Camping Equipment	827	1,984
Events	4,605	505
Events - Beavers	0	291
Events - Cubs	324	828
Events - Scouts	6,978	299
Events - Squirrels	210	151
Insurance	977	972
Meetings	4,740	5,727
Meetings - Beavers	352	93
Meetings - Explorers	58	0

Meetings - Squirrels	0	177
Membership Costs	6,319	5,420
Rent	1,050	1,050
Training	0	320
Utilities	3,197	2,103
Venue Maintenance	2,242	8,859
	<u>35,577</u>	<u>34,738</u>
Surplus/(deficit) in the year	<u>(247)</u>	<u>(424)</u>

Bank account balances	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Account balances		
Treasurers Account (Lloyds)	2,224	481
BB Inst Online (Lloyds)	16,163	18,154
Cash	205	205
	<u>18,592</u>	<u>18,839</u>
Summary		
Account balance brought forward 1 April	18,839	19,263
Total income	35,329	34,314
Total expenditure	<u>35,577</u>	<u>34,738</u>
Net income	(247)	(424)
Account balance carried 31 March 2025	<u>18,592</u>	<u>18,839</u>

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.

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

31/03/2025

Independent Examiner

D Strachan

Chartered Accountant

Date