

53rd Leicester (Birstall St. James) Scout Group

92nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 25th May 2023 at 19-30,

Birstall Scout Headquarters

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts
5. Appointment of Group Executive Committee.
 - a) Approval of nomination of Group Chairman.
 - b) Approval of nominations to Executive Committee.
 - c) Election of other Executive Committee members.
 - d) Election of Group Secretary.
 - e) Election of Group Treasurer.
5. DC or representative Address.

Group Scout Leaders Annual Report 2022/2023.

This year has been a whirlwind of a year with activities and camps galore to make up for lost time from covid plus our group 90th year birthday celebrations.

Our first event was a joint venture with Birstall guide group which was St. George's day parade. It was a great day had by all that turned up.

Our group camp this year was outside of Leicestershire at Walesby scout camp, Nottinghamshire where all activities are laid on by the staff involved in the centre. We had 58 members / 12 leaders attend from different sections. Bases are set up with various activities and the children can go to different bases and take part in new experiences. I made it a longer camp for some of the Scout / Explorer section to make it a real trip away. Part of this camp was funded by our group as part of the birthday celebrations. Big thanks to DHL who supplied a van to move the kit and to the parents who helped with this camp.

Our next big event was our birthday party which took place at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre and involved them in a full day of water sports and squirrels came for a few hours to be involved. We ended the day with a BBQ and birthday cake for all the members / parents who attended. 78 members took part in the water sports with 58 plus parents staying for the BBQ. District commissioner for Northeast, Bijal cut the cake.

Last night of the proms which was organised by Sam Bone (Scout leader) took part for its second year at St James Church, Birstall to help fund raise for the group and the church. Even more participants turned up this year and it's becoming a regular fund raiser for the group. Thanks to Sam and the adult leaders who helped.

Bonfire night was celebrated in true fashion with 89 members plus family who turned out in some nasty weather, but it didn't drown people enthusiasm to sing in the rain. The night started with a good old fashioned sing song around the campfire, the rain stopped just in time for the extra spectacular firework display by Beaver leader Simon Dolby and it was the end of the end to our birthday celebrations.

Remembrance Parade was held at St James Church where Leaders / Scouts / Explorers and a few Cubs / Beavers attended this yearly event organised by Birstall British Legion. It was a good turnout for the group, and everybody was well behaved apart from some bad singing from some of the leaders.

Throughout the year all sections have been taking part in group activities as well as their own nights away and day activities.

Our member numbers for the year have gone up with the introduction of a new section called Squirrels for the 4-6-year-olds and we were the first in the county to have a Squirrel's section and it was the first Squirrel section to achieve a top award of "Acorn" to member of that section which is a great achievement to the members and leaders.

During the year we have had an influx of people becoming leaders and parents wanting to help on camps etc. Without help from parents and adults wanting to become leaders then Birstall Scout Group wouldn't be where it is, helping children in new life experiences and social experiences.

As always our group wouldn't function without its backroom staff "The Committee", Its fabulous Leaders - new & old and help from parents- From myself and Birstall Scout Group members we can't thank enough these people that volunteer on a regular basis to help with our children's life endeavours and I'm sure next time you see these people a small thank you or even a nice Christmas present would be enough to show how much you appreciate them.

As from next September term we will be having a staff reshuffle due to some leaders leaving. Gareth, Nick G, and Steve from our scout section will be leaving our group due to family commitments and work issues so I want to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Sam B, Ben M, Tom will be moving from our Scout section to the Explorer section and Rachael, Sarah T will be taking over the Scout section with help from myself Nick F.

One final note, if any member is struggling financially and has any issues then please speak to either myself or your leader because we are here to help with any issues involving Birstall Scout Group.

With all my thanks to our staff and its members who constantly make me smile.

Nick Farnham

Group Scout Leader

Monday Night Cubs Annual Report 2022/2023.

The members in this section have enjoyed a fulfilling programme and taking part in more adventurous activities due to the lower numbers.

Events include the Bonfire night which was very wet. A lot of people were put off by the weather but those who "put on a coat" had a fantastic time.

Group Camp, which is always a brilliant camp was held at Walesby this year. Activities included several water sports, shooting, archery, climbing and lots of others. Thanks to Nick who always puts this together and cooks the dinner.

Christmas again brought the sleepover; it is always an exciting event with lots of games and activities but not much sleep.

The Coronation camp ended the year with a fantastic long weekend for 20 young members.

20 Day visitors joined us on Saturday with a full activity day for all. We were asked to take part in "Ring for the king" at the campsite and I think we did Birstall proud. Rachel did a superb job pulling this all together.

The young people have worked really hard this year earning 332 badges, 6 of those being the Chief Scout Silver Award which is the top award in Cubs.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with this section.

Monday Cub Leader Team.

Tuesday Beaver Annual Report 2022/2023.

Beavers have enjoyed another amazing year, with plenty of badges being gained.

The beavers have enjoyed a challenging and varied programme over the past year which has supported their work towards activity and staged badges. Creating various crafts, cooking, bonfire night at the local scout camp to name but a few.

Towards the end of last year, the Beavers took part in a joint sleepover at the Scout Hut and did various Christmas themed activities. The Beavers also enjoyed celebrating Diwali; they got the chance to try different Indian foods and learnt about the story and history of how Diwali started.

This year the Beavers have already had a jam-packed programme which includes a visit to St James Church to help towards their faith and Community badge. Also, the Beavers have been over to Visit Loughborough Greenfields Bowls team and had a go at Lawn Green bowls which was fully enjoyed by the Beavers and the Club members.

The intake list is plentiful, and we are happily running at 18 Beavers and will be able to for the foreseeable future.

My many thanks to the Tuesday Beaver Leadership team for their very hard work.

Simon Dolby, Sarah Putt Tuesday Beaver Scout Leaders.

Squirrels Annual Report 2022/2023.

Our Birstall Squirrel Drey has come above and beyond in the last year. They get out and about in the community making sure they help in all the ways they can.

We enjoyed our day out at the LOPC and birthday BBQ in September. Thanks to Michele and the parents who helped me facilitate all the activities and thanks to Katies Characters for their input. It was a great day out.

Squirrels are a busy bunch and have tried their hardest to achieve 310 badges in the last year, 13 of those being the top award, the Chief Scout Acorn.

We have had massive support from leaders who are willing to be involved but always have room for more adults,

We are very proud of our young people.

Maisie Farnham

Squirrel Leader

Sue Farnham

Squirrel Leader

Wednesday Beaver Annual Report 2022/2023.

Wednesday Beavers is a full active Colony and have worked hard to achieve 416 badges, including 5 Chief Scout Bronze Awards which is the highest award in Beavers.

There was a Birthday celebration at LOPC with lots of exciting things to take part in. A BBQ and Cake to eat.

We took part in a Group camp at Walesby forest with lots of water and land-based activities. Beavers had a great time.

Christmas brought us the Christmas sleepover. We spent all night doing crafts, games, and watched movies till early morning.

We visited the Cub and Scout section at their camp for the Coronation. Activities started as soon as we arrived and didn't stop until it was time to leave, we even visited the church and rang the bells for the new king in our lunch break. Camp lunch was delicious, and everyone left truly exhausted but will remember where they were when the king was crowned.

Thank you to all the leaders that support this section with time, ideas and energy.

Maisie Farnham Wednesday Beaver Leader.

Wednesday Night Cubs 2022/2023.

We are a big pack but still we managed to earn 545 badges with 3 being the Chief Scout Silver Award.

Well done everyone.

Activities last year included a day at LOPC for a full activity day followed by a BBQ for our 90th Birthday celebrations. Young people took part in canoeing, climbing, archery and many more.

We joined with the 1st Swallowfield Cubs for a trip to the Space Centre. Birstall Cubs were very welcoming, and they joined us for a fish and chip supper before sleeping over in the Scout HQ. It made Birstall leaders proud to see our cubs helping set up and pack away without being asked.

Camps included the Walesby Group camp which was full of activities, a lot on the water, and others such as climbing, archery.

The Coronation camp was full of activities, and we were busy from the moment we got there till we left. Lots of food (thanks Maisie) and not much sleep kept us going through this extra-long weekend. The King was crowned, and we rang the church bell to celebrate.

Thank you to all the leaders that support this section and to others who give us ideas.

Sue Farnham Cub Scout Leader

Scouts Annual Report 2022/2023.

This year has been challenging for the scout section. Due to commitments away from Birstall and/or scouting the leaders will be leaving the section at the end of the academic year. We thank them all for their commitment and dedication over the past 12 years to this section. It was with deep regret that as part of the handover of scouts to the new leadership team that the section has had to reduce to bi-weekly meetings. Requests for support from parents / volunteers were unsuccessful and the resulting effect has seen section membership decline over the past 12 months particularly since the reduction in meeting frequency, we are also conscious that this has caused challenge for parents. The section has continued to support a wide range of activities, however, as transition to new leadership has drawn closer there has been a reduced focus on badgework with the aim of creating a strong culture to within the scouts to pass on and enable a future rebuild of the section. We wish the new leadership team every success in redeveloping the section and would plea to all parents to value and support the work undertake to support scouting in Birstall.

The current leadership would like to thank Nick Farnham and Vic Dolby for their unwavering support in their tenures as GSL. Also the other section leaders for the opportunities that they have provided over the last 12 years.

Gareth Woods Scout Leader

Explorer Scouts 2022/2023.

First night back was 13th September where we were planning for the upcoming term and year. This included Rifle shooting, Fencing, chip shop hike, shelter building, cooking, gaming night, Performing arts, Creative arts, Modelling, Coronation cooking, shooting, First aid and paddle boards.

We are in the stages of planning to do an overnight camp in open shelters at the end of this term at Johns Lee Wood.

We have completed a lot of scouting badges this year and is a great achievement for the Explorers.

We have had 7 Explorers leave over the year due to them being of leaving age of 18.

Member numbers are 8.

Nick Farnham Explorer Scout Leader.

Treasurer's Report

Last year was very busy for the group mainly because of the 90th anniversary celebrations which took place. These should have happened in 2020 but for obvious

reasons were delayed. On top of this we are now dealing with a large increase in membership partly accounted for by the introduction of a Squirrel section but also increases across the board.

Income

It should be noted that all figures in the Income and Expenditure account are gross figures, this is a Charity Commission requirement.

Subscriptions were back to a pre covid level. As parents will know we introduced an OSM based payment system last year and this has been very successful in keeping track of subs and events payments. Income for events of £9566 was offset against an expenditure of £11354 giving a loss of £ 1788, this loss was budgeted for as part of the 90th celebrations. Fund raising gave a net profit of £1649 less expenses of £1030 which comes to £619. Gift Aid was £281, the low figure being a reflection of the fact we only charged a minimum amount for subs in the previous year. HQ hire continues to give us a useful income,

Expenditure

With the resumption of normal service Section Activities increased back to more normal levels. Events and Fund Raising expenses I have mentioned in the previous section. Equipment consists of new and extra camping equipment and some new, lighter air rifles. Capitation is the money we need to send to Scout HQ to keep them going and again reflects the increase in membership. Light and heat jumped last year as it did for everyone and will double this year. The OSM software was a lot less than the previous year because of an adjustment for overpayment.

General comments

At the end of last year we took the difficult decision to increase subs which had been at the same level for around thirteen years. The main reason for the decision was the increase in energy prices which will increase our annual bill to around £3000 this year, this against an average cost of £900 before the pandemic. The operating loss of £3469 is accounted for by the Events overspend plus the increase in energy costs and loss of Gift Aid income. However, barring unforeseen disasters, we are now back on an even keel.

Nick Bryan - Group Treasurer.

Assets Report

We are a registered charity in our own right Charity no: 1181325 The Group Executive Committee members are the Charity Trustees of the Group. The Executive Committee meet regularly during the year to oversee the business of the Group.

The Scout Headquarters and land is owned by the Group.

The Headquarters buildings are insured for £ 193,254.00 and the equipment is insured for £22,608.00. The Headquarters we believe are in a reasonable state of repair and structurally sound and maintenance is carried out on a regularly Basis.

All reasonable precautions and risk assessments are carried out to ensure the Headquarters is a safe venue to use.

We currently hire out the H.Q to two outside groups and also occasional hirers which brings in additional income which in turn helps with maintenance of the building.

All equipment is kept in good order and replaced when if deemed to be out of date or not fit for purpose.

Our group is co-educational, the Scout Group consists of the following sections Squirrels, two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop, and one Explorer unit. Each Section has an active and stimulating programme, details of which will appear elsewhere in this report.

Financially, we are in good order as indicated in the treasurers report.

The Group only survives and thrives thanks to the many volunteers who give their time freely. I express my thanks to all leaders, assistants, instructors, helpers, and committee members who have enabled the Group to have another successful year.

Vic Dolby

Group Secretary

53rd LEICESTER [BIRSTALL ST JAMES] SCOUT GROUP
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		14911		1600
Uniforms		62		297
Donations		1034		0
Grants		0		16728
Events		9566		428
Fundraising		1649		260
Gift Aid		281		0
HQ Hire		2328		1972
COIF Charity Fund Interest		54		1
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		29885		21286
EXPENDITURE				
Uniforms	886		1110	
Badges	1907		1723	
Section Activities	2640		1890	
Events	11354		1150	
Fund Raising Expenses	1030		0	
Kandersteg	0		1250	
Equipment	2041		378	
Capitation	6373		4205	
Insurance	1033		1238	
Light & Heat	1536		106	
Water Rates	457		421	
Repairs & Renewals	1455		9398	
Broadband	326		291	
Cleaning	728		690	
Accountancy	450		300	
Finance Charges	418		0	
OSM Software	98		609	
AGM Expenses	274		0	
Leaders Meeting	309		0	
Stationery	19		0	
Miscellaneous Expenses	20		36	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		33354		24795
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		<hr/>		<hr/>
		(3469)		(3509)
		<hr/>		<hr/>

53rd LEICESTER [BIRSTALL ST JAMES] SCOUT GROUP
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	5000	13000
Current Account	5597	1525
Expense Account	159	0
Ring Fence Account	450	0
Less :-	11206	14525
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals	450	300
NET ASSETS	10756	14225
Represented by :-		
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Opening Balance	14225	17734
Excess of Expenditure over Income	-3469	-3509
	10756	14225

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
53rd Leicester [Birstall St James] Scout Group**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibility of Group Executive Committee

As the charity's trustees, the Group Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Basis of Examiner's Report

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit. Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

1] to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached,

2] which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the accounting rules of the Group's constitution have not been met.



A F Tomlinson

Accountant

10 Melba Way
Birstall
Leicester
LE4 4GT

16 May 2023