

PHOENIX INDEPENDENT SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1195203

Details

Other names PHOENIX SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-07-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO DEVELOP GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTH SELF-RELIANT AND USEFUL TO OTHERS. THIS IS DELIVERED THROUGH PROGRESSIVE TRAINING BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF SCOUTING AS LAID DOWN BY LORD BADEN-POWELL AND THE LAW AND PROMISE GIVEN BY HIM IN 'SCOUTING FOR BOYS'. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008].

Activities: Teach life-skills

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£272	£0	-	-
2024-01-31	£275	£0	-	-
2023-01-31	£35	£0	-	-
2022-01-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lindsey Hood	Chair	2021-01-14
Andrew Nowacki		2024-10-05
JAMES ARTHUR COLLINS		2023-11-25

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Trustee Report

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

This year has been one of both great progress and deep reflection for Phoenix Independent Scouts Association. We sadly lost one of our founding trustees, Steve Elliott (he always had to remind me that it was two T'!), whose passing has been felt profoundly across our Association.

Steve was one of the very first people to put his hand up when no one else would. In his own humble way he would always insist he “didn't really do anything”, but his presence alone was a constant source of strength. He always had something to say, always offered support, and always stood beside us during difficult moments. During the height of the Euro18 challenges, Steve was resolutely in the right corner. He was also one of the first to reach out to me personally when I began openly supporting Jay, Sarah, Graham, Lyn, Mark and the others. His kindness, his loyalty, and his quiet but unwavering commitment to Phoenix will never be forgotten. He is very deeply missed.

WFIS Participation and International Development

Our involvement with WFIS has continued to grow and strengthen.

- **WFIS GA - Turkey**
A very wet but very memorable General Assembly, during which Phoenix was formally voted in as full members of WFIS. This marks an important milestone in our development and recognition internationally.
- **WFIS Workshop - Rome**
Although I had to withdraw at the last minute, the workshop was reported to be an excellent event with impressively high attendance. The only consistent complaint I've heard is that if you weren't a fan of pasta, you might have struggled!
- **WFIS Rover Moot - Denmark 2026**
Mortimer Rovers are planning to attend the Rover Moot in Denmark next August. If any other Rover Crew would like to join us, you are more than welcome. Please contact me and I will share the full details.

Membership and Growth

It has been an exceptionally busy year for membership.

We were disappointed to lose Blackwater Valley, who found that they could not maintain their own independent WFIS membership while remaining members of Phoenix. We continue to stay in close contact with Richard, and relations remain warm and positive. We often see them at WFIS events, Jay recently attended the opening of their new hut, and they are planning to join us at the Rover Moot.

On a brighter note, interest in Phoenix remains strong:

- We have two new groups to vote on during this AGM.
- A further two groups have already expressed interest in joining.

This demonstrates that Phoenix continues to grow, evolve, and move steadily forward.

Training

Although Phoenix does not directly provide formal training, we are very happy to facilitate shared learning workshops between Groups. If any Group has particular needs, challenges, or areas where they would benefit from collective support, please let us know—we are more than willing to coordinate opportunities for pooled learning, skills sessions, or leader development activities.

Many of our Groups already have leaders with valuable specialist skills that could be shared more widely. For example, Mortimer have leaders who are qualified Mountain Leaders, as well as others with Archery instruction qualifications and similar expertise. If you or your Group have a skill set that may be of interest to others, please feel free to advertise it on the Phoenix WhatsApp group, or forward the details to me and I will circulate them to all Groups by email. This kind of shared knowledge and peer-to-peer support is one of our greatest strengths.

It may also be the right time to revisit the original training plan concept, reframed as an Adult Leadership Development Programme rather than “training” in the formal sense. The earlier resistance was understood, but with ongoing growth in Phoenix, and with Groups increasingly asking for support, this could now be reshaped into something collaborative, flexible, and genuinely beneficial.

To support this discussion properly, I have added training as a specific item on the agenda for this AGM, so that trustees and Groups can explore needs, ideas and next steps formally.

Looking Ahead

I remain keen to explore the idea of organising a Phoenix Group Camp. I fully appreciate the challenges - coordinating multiple groups, budgets, distance and timing - but I am confident that when the moment is right, we will make it happen.

Looking further ahead, we are also preparing for a major milestone: Phoenix will be hosting the WFIS Workshop in 2027. We have already visited a potential venue, Scout Park in North London. It appears to be the ideal location, provided we are able to manage attendance numbers carefully. This is an exciting opportunity for us to showcase Phoenix, strengthen our WFIS relationships, and deliver a high-quality event here in the UK. If you would like to be involved—whether in planning, logistics, or offering an activity or session—please let me know. Your support would be very welcome.

Phoenix is built on resilience, collaboration, and mutual support. Despite the challenges of this year, we are continuing to expand, connect, and strengthen our presence both nationally and internationally. The legacy of those who helped build this organisation - especially Steve - continues to guide us.

Thank you to all trustees, leaders, volunteers, and supporters for your ongoing commitment. Phoenix remains strong because of the people within it.

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31st January 2025

Income

Income Source	Amount (£)
Membership Fees	272.00
Total Income	272.00

Expenditure

Expense	Amount (£)
Total Expenditure	0.00

Net Surplus/Deficit

Category	Amount (£)
Surplus	272.00

Balance Sheet as of 31st January 2024

Assets	Amount (£)
Bank Account Balance (as of 1 st February 2024)	275.00
Add: Net Surplus	272.00
Total Bank Balance (as of 31 st January 2025)	547.00

Liabilities	Amount (£)
Total Liabilities	180.00

Net Assets £367

Summary

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association has maintained a healthy financial position over the past year, ending with net assets of £367. Our income this year has come solely from AGM food donations.

The outstanding £12 membership fees from previous years have now been written off, and we kindly ask all groups to ensure that invoices are settled promptly in 2025. As we anticipate becoming members of WFIS in 2025, membership invoices will be issued on or about 1st January 2025.

Our only current liability is the £180 WFIS membership fee for 2025. The 2026 membership will be due in Feb 2026.

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Phoenix Independent Scout Association Trustees Report 2024

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and optimism that we present this Trustees Report for Phoenix Independent Scouts Association. We have seen continued development and significant involvement in the wider international scouting community. This year has been a period of consolidation for Phoenix.

WFIS General Assembly in Portugal – January 2024

In January 2024, we are delighted to announce that two of our Trustees, James Collins and Lindsey Hood, represented Phoenix Independent Scout Group at the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) General Assembly in Portugal. This event was an incredible opportunity for our Association, and we are hopeful that we will be voted in as full members of WFIS in 2025. Becoming full members will mark a significant milestone for Phoenix and will further establish us within the international scouting community.

Congratulations to Blackwater Valley for becoming full members of WFIS.

New Leaders Training – May 2024

Investing in our leaders is a key priority, and in May 2024, we held a comprehensive new leader training program. This training was designed to equip new leaders with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead effectively and inspire our young people. The commitment of our leaders to continual development is essential to the success and sustainability of our groups.

Trustee Changes

We would also like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Steve Elliott, who has made the decision to step down as a trustee (he did try last year!). Steve has been an instrumental part of Phoenix Independent Scouts Association, playing a vital role in helping to establish and set up the Association. His commitment, dedication, and vision have been invaluable, and we thank him sincerely for his service. Steve's legacy will undoubtedly continue to shape our Association for years to come.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we look ahead, we are hopeful that 2025 will bring even more opportunities for growth and adventure. We are especially eager to finally hold the long-promised Phoenix Group Camp, which has been on our agenda for some time. We encourage anyone who might be interested in stepping up to help organize this camp to reach out—your involvement would be incredibly welcome and appreciated.

In closing, the trustees would like to thank all our groups for their ongoing support and dedication to Phoenix Independent Scouts Association. We are proud of what we have achieved together and excited for the journey ahead.

Yours in Scouting,

The Trustees of Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31st January 2024

Income

Income Source	Amount (£)
Badges	35.00
2023 AGM food donations	240.00
Total Income	275.00

Expenditure

Expense	Amount (£)
Total Expenditure	0.00

Net Surplus/Deficit

Category	Amount (£)
Surplus	275.00

Balance Sheet as of 31st January 2024

Assets	Amount (£)
Bank Account Balance (as of 1 st February 2023)	0.00
Add: Net Surplus	275.00
Total Bank Balance	275.00

Liabilities	Amount (£)
Total Liabilities	0

Net Assets £275.00

Summary

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association has maintained a healthy financial position over the past year, with a net surplus of £275. Our income so far has been from AGM food donations, no membership invoices have been produced for 2024 but as we hope to become members of WFIS in 2025, membership invoices will be issued on or about 1st January 2025.

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Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Trustee Report 22/23

Whilst on the surface it seems another quiet year for Phoenix, underneath things have been progressing nicely. Individual groups have been busy. Thank you to everyone that have posted pictures etc. onto the Facebook group. It's really good to see what you are getting up to and is a great advertisement for traditional scouting. Please let me know about any events/camps that you have planned; we will try our best to visit (if you would like us to).

In January, we were accepted as prospective members of the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) following a vote at their annual General Assembly. As you all know, our membership vote was originally postponed for 1 year following some concerns from another WFIS member, but the Steering Committee have been very supportive in helping us move forward. The vote to give us full membership will take place at the GA in 2025, which I hope we will be able to attend and that the vote will be in our favour.

Although we were unable to attend the GA in January, our prospective membership did allow us to attend Eurocamp 2023 in Germany. My only other experience of Eurocamp was in 2018. Despite everything that has happened since, Euro18 is still a highlight of my scouting "career". Germany was a very different experience but that is what it is all about and it was still amazing 10 days. Our plan to come 2nd in the Camp Gateway competition failed which meant we spent the first few days adapting our original design and building the gateway. It was located just outside the camp office, which meant that everyone arriving had to walk past it. We received so many positive comments and I don't think there was one group that left the camp without taking a photo. Despite the wind and rain, it lasted until the last day! The gateway was also voted as the best gateway on camp so we came away with a certificate and very impressive trophy which was presented during the closing ceremony.

Continuing on the WFIS theme, we were able to send a delegation to the Workshop held in Prague. James C, Jay, Dorthe, Andrew, Ryan and James Ford represented 1st Mortimer and Phoenix well.

The next WFIS event is the GA which takes place on 27th January. This year it's being held in Portugal. So far, only Mortimer have sent delegates, but it is open to all Phoenix groups. If you fancy a trip in January, you are more than welcome to join us.

Moving away from WFIS, in January, 1st Blackwater Valley organised a Safety in the Hills course which took place in Snowdon. James C, Jay and I made the 5hr trip (add on another 2 hours for me...) to Wales and enjoyed a very enjoyable weekend. Jay wasn't able to walk to far following his knee operation but James and I took the opportunity to "summit" Snowdon and wild camped on the way back down. We did plan to try and meet up with Richard and his Rovers but it turns out the Watkin Path is quite steep and a bit rocky towards the top so we decided to camp next to the lakes. It was a chilly night and made James and I realise that we needed to upgrade our sleeping matts. Thanks to Richard for organising and allowing us to attend.

The inaugural Skip Johnson Memorial Hike took place in April. I am pleased to say that from the 11 teams that entered, the majority managed to complete the course in what turned out to be very wet conditions. The hike was opened up to all scouts' groups and I am pleased to say that we had representatives from other associations - which is the way that scouting should be. The next hike is planned for 27th April 2024. I hope that we can grow the number of entries for the next hike and that

the weather is at least a little bit drier. If you took part this year and have any suggestion on how we can improve the weekend, please let me know.

Although we had planned to hold a Phoenix Association camp this year, life seemed to take over so unfortunately it didn't happen. Despite being a scout for over 40 years now (!) I have never camped on Brownsea Island. It's definitely an ambition of mine so I am going to try my hardest to make that happen. However, there are plans afoot for a 4/5 day expedition which will take place in the Brecon Beacons. JC already has a route planned and has some silly idea of checking the route by walking it over 48 hours. I might be busy that weekend! This will be open to all Scouts, Rovers, Leaders and I already have some interest from scout groups outside Phoenix, including the possibility of some travelling from Italy and Germany to take part. I think the proposed date is 3rd-10th August but that is to be confirmed.

Although Phoenix is still a very small Association, I am in conversation with several existing groups that are keen to stay in contact and partake in Phoenix events with a view to possibly becoming members in the future. Phoenix was set up to give a home to several groups that found themselves evolving into independent groups due to circumstances. Phoenix continues to be open to all groups, both existing and new. If you know of any new groups opening in your area, please mention Phoenix to them. We are happy to chat to anyone who has an interest in joining us.

Finally, both Neil and Steve have decided to step down as Phoenix Trustees at this meeting (although at the time of writing this I am still one volunteer short so I may have to bribe one of them to stay on for a little while). I would like to thank them both for stepping forward and volunteering for what turned out to be a 2-year stint., I am very grateful for their support and advice during the set up.

Finally, finally... thank you all for giving up your time today to attend.



Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Account 2022-23

Income	£35.00
Expense	£0.00
Surplus	£35.00

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Trustee Report 2021/22

It has been a slow year for Phoenix as all groups have been concentrating on getting their new independent status up and running. We are very pleased to have so many groups represented at the 1st AGM and are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by all involved.

29th July – Neil visited 3rd Wiltshire – Warminster on camp

24/25th September – WFIS Workshop visit.

We last met as a group back in September 2021 where it was agreed that Phoenix would apply for membership to WFIS. The application was sent and was due to be considered at the GA in June 2022. Unfortunately, in the early hours of the morning of the GA, the B-PSA sent an email with further accusations with regards to Eurocamp18. The WFIS steering committee made the decision to postpone the vote on our membership as, if the vote had gone ahead and we had been unsuccessful, we would not be allowed to reapply. In response to the accusations, a delegation from Phoenix were invited to attend the WFIS Workshop in Copenhagen in September. Lyn, Luke, James C, Neil and I attended the very successful workshop and Neil and I, as Trustees, met with the Steering Committee to discuss the accusations and decide on a way forward. It was a positive discussion and we came away with a very clear path forward with regards to our membership.

We are waiting for the final confirmation for the Association bank account to be complete.

We plan to hold a Phoenix Group camp in May/June half term in 2023 and invites have been extended for cubs to attend a Mortimer cub weekend in February.

Membership badges are almost ready.

We hope that Phoenix will be in a position to attend Eurocamp2023.



Accounts 2021-22

Income	£0.00
Expense	£0.00
Surplus	£0.00