



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2024 Period start date To 31 March 2025 Period end date

Charity name: Ninth Dartford Scout Group

Charity registration number: 271270

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Ninth Dartford Scout Group is a trust established under Scouting rules (see detail on the background on this point in the Governance section later in this report) and its purpose is that which is common to all scouts. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	As with other Scout Groups Ninth Dartford has the aim of promoting the development of young people by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive learning based on the scout promise and law. The hall is used for section nights and as a base. The former includes developing new skills such as cooking, sleep-overs and art although there are external visits such as ice skating and tobogganing. The latter means that we have somewhere to keep our many indoor and outdoor games and, of course, camping equipment. The support which the Council provided in 2021 (see our 2022 report to the charity Commission) has been used to 'open up' our outside area for troop night use. We now have a dedicated fenced off area for a firepit

		and a large area for games. Safety features - a dedicated cage for gas canisters and a dedicated shed for the mowing equipment- have also been completed.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The year to March 2025 saw improvements to the hall and grounds, but the group also grew. The Squirrels Scout section mentioned in the 2022 report is not just full but has a large waiting list. Our wider support for the community has, since the 2022 report, including providing our hall for use by the NHS Vaccination service and one-off support to the local professional Pantomime for costume facilities.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	This review takes the form of the annual accounts, which have been provided to the charity Commission and show that the charity is solvent and has sufficient reserves. But must be considered in accordance with other information in this section.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy is to hold reserves of at least £3,000, sufficient to cover at least three months essential running costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The balance sheet shows £36,067. This is due, in part, to an increase in income from renting out the Scout hall and the fact that we have kept some Covid assistance which we were still using to keep the weekly subs at the same rate in 2025 and for 2026.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are none.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Weekly subs (and their inherent Gift Aid claim) along with parents contributions towards some activities and our aforementioned increase in hiring the hall out are the principle sources of income.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The Group's Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:</p> <p>Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The</p>

		<p>Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss. Indeed it had the hall revalued during 2025 to ensure that the insurance was adequate.</p> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions, hall hire and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members. As at 31 March 2025 the group provided activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. It still does. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Groups governing documents are those of the Scout Association . They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turns gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all scouts
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders and parent's representation and meets every 2 to 3 months.</p> <p>This Group Trustee Board exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:</p> <p>The maintenance of Group property; The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; The insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; Appointing any sub committees that</p>
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		may be required; Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; Appointing any sub committees that may be required; Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Ninth Dartford Scout Group
Other name the charity uses	Informally it uses '9th Dartford Scout Group'
Registered charity number	271270
Charity's principal address	The Charity is a part of the Scouting Organisation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Simon Sear	Chair		
2	Julie Southcott	Group Lead Volunteer		
3	Philip Hamblin	Group Treasurer		
4	Shaun Ford	Trustee		
5	Wilson Couchman	Trustee		
6	Neil Gearing	Trustee		
7	Desmond Harris	Trustee		
8	Pauline Daly	Trustee		
9	Liam Fensome	Trustee		
10	Jack Ford	Trustee		
11	Leigh Hunter	Trustee		
12	Justin Watson	Trustee		
13	Sarah Gull	Trustee		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	Not applicable	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
	Not applicable	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
		Not applicable

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

Philip John Hamblin	Simon Sear
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Treasurer	Group Chair
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Date

30 January 2026

9th DARTFORD SCOUT GROUP

Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2025

9th DARTFORD SCOUT GROUP**Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025**

Income	£	£	Expenditure	£
Group Subscriptions with national capitation payments			Group expenses	
Squirrels	2,340		Section night costs; Squirrels	562
Beaver Section	3,200		Beavers	1,027
Cub Section	2,812		Cubs	424
Scout Section	1,676		Scouts	1,135
Explorers	653		Explorers	377
	<u>10,681</u>		Joint (bouncy castle)	205
				<u>3,730</u>
Total subscriptions for group		5,693		
Total payments for capitation		<u>4,988</u>	Capitation	
		<u>10,681</u>	Group	4,675
			Explorers	313
				<u>4,988</u>
Fund Raising & Donations			Other expenses	
Hall rental	9,157		Camps (including Group camp)	1,891
Gift aid (for year ending 5 April 2023)	2,191		Clothing (new logo this year)	1,217
General donations	1,370		Cleaning	1,370
Bizarre	587		Hall safety checks and equipment	927
	<u>13,305</u>		Badges	747
			Bizarre and St Georges day Parade	740
			AGM, group Software, leader expenses	471
				<u>7,363</u>
			Overheads	
Camp contributions			Gas	1,868
			Insurance (hall)	1,260
Other income			Rent (land)	1,000
Section night contributions	1,174		Water rates	370
Family camp contributions	1520		Electricity	324
Camp contributions	724		Performing rights society	316
Clothing sales (excluding camp clothing)	649			<u>5,138</u>
	<u>4,067</u>		Group improvements/repairs	
			New concrete base	1,869
			Equipment	1,695
			Repairs	80
				<u>3,644</u>
			Prepayments for camps	
			Summer 2025 Kent International Jamboree	750
			CampBeaver camp April 2025	735
			Gilwell camp, November 2025	211
				<u>1696</u>
GROSS INCOME		<u>28,053</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>26,559</u>
Opening Balance 1st April 2024		£	Bank and cash reconciliation at 31 March 2025	
Bank current accounts and money on Hypercard	33,641		Cash and cheques on hand;	£
Bank deposit account	89		Squirrels	39
Cash in hand	843		Beavers	48
	<u>34,573</u>		Cubs	285
			Scouts	0
Plus Income	28,053		Explorers	71
Total	<u>62,626</u>		Hyperjar card	910
				<u>1,353</u>
Less expenditure	26,559		Cash in current accounts	34,624
			Cash in deposit account	90
Closing balance at 31 March 2025	<u>36,067</u>		Closing balance at 31 March 2025	<u>36,067</u>

SignedSimon Sear

Simon Sear
Group Chair

Dated 1/30/2026

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Notes to Accounts & Treasurers Report**Records and accounts**

As with earlier years I would like to thank the Section Lead volunteers and hall-hire manager for their excellent records.

Last year I reported the efforts, mainly sorted by Shaun Ford, to reduce the Gas Bill from over £4,000. The reduction to under £2,000 was helped by all leaders but primarily from Shauns suggestions and a new contract.

The increase in the Performing Rights Society expenditure is due in part to the fact that some of the 2024 dues were paid during the 2025 year but also to the increase in hall rental income between 2023 and 2024. I expect that we will experience a similar increase next year.

Donations

National and local bodies have been generous this year, and we would like to thank them all, including; The Scout section enjoyed a November Gilwell camp which was funded by Scout Headquarters. PP Catering donated £145 from one of their raffles.

Jim Trott for his donation of £300 to be used for a gardening tools shed which Jim will be pleased to know that it was put into position in September 2025.

The generous donation of £800 from the Bird in Hand is to be used for the benefit of all who attend the Group Camp in July 2026.

Scout Bank

There were no movements in this year so the Scout Bank remained at £1,188 throughout.

The Group

Improvement expenses include Hi Viz Jackets, games - both indoor and outdoor as well as improvements on the premises including the concrete base in the grounds and almost £1,000 worth of tables.

The Hall

The hall continued to be used by non-scouting organisations, including a knitting & crochet club, a dance club and the NHS Immunisation team as well as being a polling station for elections. Due to egregious behaviour including abuse and fly tipping from a small minority of users we are limiting the categories of people to whom we allow access to the hall.

Statement of assets and liabilities

	£
Opening funds	34,573
Income	28,053
Expenses	26,559
Closing funds	36,067
Increase in funds	
Assets	£
New equipment costs	1,695
Hall improvement costs	1,869
Taken to P+L account	3,564
Net improvement costs	0
Deposit account	90
Current accounts	34,624
Cash and cheques in hand	1,353
	36,067

Signed *P.Hamblin* Philip Hamblin
Treasurer
Date 30-Jan-26

Unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 9th Dartford Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 9th Dartford Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 9th Dartford Scout Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 9th Dartford Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

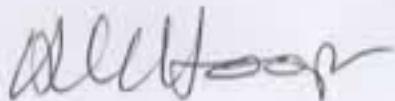
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 9th Dartford Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. ~~the~~ accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Helen Hooper

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): FCCA

Address: 93 The Street, Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 5LU

Date: 24/1/26