

1st Poulner Scout Group

Report to 2025 AGM from Chair

2024 to 2025 is another year with no reportable accidents or close calls among the young people and the leaders should be congratulated for ensuring their safety. However, this does not imply a lack of activity – far from it. Some successful camps including a very well attended St George's Day Camp at Braggar's Wood and an excellent summer camp in the West Country brought all those amazing benefits that such a wild camp gives - to the cubs, scouts and explorer scouts who attended.

So, the programme of activities at 1st Poulner Scout Group continues apace. Unfortunately, there are now some very big challenges, the most notable being the paucity of active leaders and helpers. Since the Covid lockdowns it is very evident that there are just not the volunteers out there who aspire to scout leadership. This in itself is disappointing, but even more so when there have been no effective steps by District or County hierarchy to help with recruitment – and this may be because this is part of a wider malaise.

The effect on the young people and the organisation cannot be understated. With the loss of leaders, the group has had to close one beaver colony and it is likely that within the next year a cub pack will be closed, leading inevitably to the closure of one of the 2 scout troops. This all comes after 30 years of growing numbers at 1st Poulner Scout Group, and does not seem to be attributable to just a local downturn.

That being said, it is clear that following the problems caused to children from the lockdowns, activities such as scouting may be seen to be exactly the sort of activities that are needed by the young in helping them to socialise in a carefully balanced challenging environment. It is with great concern that the members of the Board see this reduction and they will continue to work with the leaders of the Scout Group to see how the falling number of leaders might be addressed.

As for finances, it is to the credit of the Board that they have conserved sufficient reserves to weather a considerable period of lower income. It is notable that hall lettings are down, and that there are financial pressures in the local community and among parents of our young people. The Group continues to be well managed financially thanks to our long serving outgoing treasurer Paul Assheton. Nicki Best who takes over is well qualified and experienced to take on this important mantle.

I would also like to offer my thanks to the Board, for all their unheralded and unstinting support. The Group is in very safe hands. That of course is partly because of the excellent leadership shown by the leaders of the group. I know the Board will join me in thanking each and every one of them for their contribution to Scouting in Poulner

Colin Andrews

Chair

Apr 24 - Mar 25

Income

Bank Interest		
Events - Explorers	20.00	
Events - Scouts	150.00	
Explorer transfer	1,699.16	
Hall rental	11,313.82	
Membership Fees	27,218.61	
Minibus Hire	3,225.00	
Dave Watt Leaving Donation	135.00	
Donation	755.75	
Total Income	£44,517.34	

Expenses

Equipment

Activity Equipment	1,366.02	
Camping Equipment	1,139.01	

Capitation

Capitation	8,514.00	
Other expenses		
Carnival	951.58	
Donation for trip Alyce Tate	1,000.00	
Leaders Meal	204.48	

Section costs

Events	265.00	
Events - Beavers	391.63	
Events - Cubs	4,581.22	
Events - Scouts	330.80	
Explorer transfer	3,118.16	
gocardless fees	0.00	
Meetings - Beavers	698.83	
Meetings - Cubs	314.70	
Meetings - Explorers	306.44	
Meetings - Scouts	458.51	
OSM Subscriptions	0.00	
Ski Trip 2026	1,641.60	
St Georges Camp	0.00	
Summer Camp	5,597.65	
Summer Camp 2025	0.00	

Training

Training	741.00	
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Hall costs

Hall Cleaning	1,028.15	
Insurance	3,721.75	
Insurance	1,830.30	
Utilities	3,585.44	

Vehicle Cost

Vehicle Fuel	885.58	
Vehicle Maintanace	3,071.34	
Venue Maintenance	2,434.71	
	£48,177.90	

Total Expenses

Net Income

-£3,560.79

Account balances

1st Poulner Scouts - Main

Account balance brought forward	24,622.66
Total income	44,517.34
Total expenditure	48,177.90
Net income	-3,660.56
Account balance carried forward	20,962.10

Barclays (MAC)

Account balance brought forward	52.21
Total income	
Total expenditure	
Net income	
Account balance carried forward	

Barclays (Reserve)

Account balance brought forward	71,510.74
Total income	
Total expenditure	
Net income	
Account balance carried forward	79,068.37

NATWEST (Explorer)

Account balance brought forward	£100.00
Total income	
Total expenditure	
Net income	
Account balance carried forward	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

157 Poulner Scout Group

On accounts for the year
ended

31/57 MARCH 2025

Charity no
(if any)

280271

Set out on pages

1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

25/1/2026

Name:

STEPHEN ROBERT LEONARD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

FCCA

(if any):

Address:

130 BOURNEMOUTH ROAD
CHANDLER'S FORD
HANTS SO53 3AL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.