

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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0	4	2	3
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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	4
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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Blackwater Valley District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

3	0	2	1	0	1
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HQ registration number

1	0	0	0	1	1	7	1
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Charity's principal address

c/o Mr A Blake										
11 Wisley Gardens										
Farnborough										
Postcode				G	U	1	4	0	R	S

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Michael Hughes	Chair	
2	Pamela Mikulskis	Treasurer	
3	Andrew Blake	Secretary	
4	Dawn Mahoon	DistrictLead Volunteer	from 1/9/23
5	Colin Slatter		
6	Emma Buckett		from 20/7/23
7	Linda Moyle		
8	Adam Spinks		
9	Clair Hewitson		
10	Rebecca Riley	Shop Manager	
11	Melody Baxter		
12	Ellie Williams	Youth Commr.	
13	Haydn Allen	Youth Commr.	
14	John Glanville		From 20/7/2023
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The District's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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.

Policies and procedures adopted for:
a) the induction and training of trustees;
b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 15 Trustees (including 3 Ex Officio Trustees) and meets bi-monthly.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee, Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR and Essential Information learning within the first 5 months of joining the Board.

The District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	<p>Risk and Internal Control</p> <p>The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District 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.</p> <p>The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Districts. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.</p> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.</p> <p>The District through the membership fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduced income from fund raising.</p> <p>The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of leaders.</p> <p>The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the District 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 District.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members.</p> <p>The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District 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 District.</p> <p>Risk and Internal Control</p> <p>The District has in place systems of internal controls (Standing Orders) that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: 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.</p> <p>The Scout Method 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 - make and live by their Promise.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>The Trustee Board supports and promotes a range of activities, across all sections, to encourage the sharing of skills, fun and adventurous activities by supporting training of skills instructors to either scout permit level or National Governing Body accreditation by contributing 50% of the cost.</p>
Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)	
<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grantmaking; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments. 	<p>The Trustee Board makes small grants to groups within the District to enable completion of projects that enhance their property or equipment for the benefit of young people. £5k is allocated to this annually from reserves.</p> <p>Hardship Cases of hardship are treated considerably, on a case by case basis, by the Trustee Board.</p> <p>Investment Policy The Trustee Board invests excess funds in Charity Bonds, covered by FSCA guarantee, at favourable rates on fixed term basis over 2 & 3 years</p>
Public benefit statement	<p>The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>

Section D	Achievements and performance
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	<p>The Trustee Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made good choices in investing surplus funds at high interest rates - Assited in organised a successful St Georges Day - Supported and encouraged all groups to adopt trustee best practice. - Part funded four young people to the World Scout Jamboree. - Supported the DLV in developing leader recruitment. - Made grants to four group to enable improvements and purchase of activity equipment. - Supported the new District Lead Volunteer. - Continued as a partner with Hampshire County Council in the management of Runways End Outdoor Centre. Reduced the District Levy in recognition of the additional
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Section E	Financial Review
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Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	<p>Reserves Policy</p> <p>Many years ago the District sold a property which gave the District around £120K reserve. Whilst holding sufficient funds in the current account the remainder is held in fixed term charity bonds providing an income to support the grant making policy. Additionally the Trustees have adpoted the stance that its funds should, where possible, only support</p>
Quantify and explain any designations	<p>The District held reserves of approximately £80k against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. However this can be explained by using the income from the surplus to support the local development of scouting</p>
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	<p>None</p>

Further financial review details (optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives;

Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure are normally are well balanced. In 2022-23 its income was substantially below that required to operate the district following a decision to reduce the District Levy by 60% to alleviate the burden on groups, as a result of cost increases in utilities and general rises in other costs. The trustees decided to use some of their reserves to support district expenditure. Suplus reserves are invested in Charity Bonds, over one and two years, with interest supporting the expenditure. All other funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks.

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

See above

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M J Hughes

Full name(s)

Michael John Hughes

Chair

Chair

Date

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	Notes	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
Membership				
Subscriptions	1	61,915	51,496	46,274
Less: Membership to be paid on		55,496	48,610	40,522
Net membership retained		6,419	2,886	5,752
Activities				
Explorer Activities and Camps	2	7,468	3,557	2,973
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	3	1,430	2,622	1,480
District Activities	4	0	0	0
Active Support Unit		0	0	0
Archery Club		3,545	1,718	1,644
DHQ Bar		94	134	188
Training	5	0	0	0
Recruitment inc Youth Involvement				0
Special Camps		0	1,200	0
Fundraising				
Funds raised for other charities		240	0	0
Active		0	26	0
Donations		422	0	150
Grant		1,739	330	700
Misc Income		819	0	0
Investment Income				
Bank/Building Society Interest		98	69	1
Bond Interest		0	0	0
Gift Aid		641	0	0
STIS Interest		142	659	95
Sales				
Shop Sales		5,814	7,347	7,710
Badge Sales		13,304	8,485	1,308
Total Receipts		£42,176	£29,032	£22,001

Payments	Notes	2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
Activities and Events				
District Activities and Events	6	0	0	0
Scout, Cub & Beavers Activities	7	945	1,929	1,802
Explorers Activities and Camps	8	7,901	5,191	3,332
Active Support Unit		0	0	0
Archery Club		100	577	21
Recruitment inc Youth Involvement		0	0	0
iScout		543	785	817
Awards		100	0	50
Special Camps		0	0	0
Fundraising Costs & Donations				
Donations		240	0	0
Active Support Unit		0	0	85
District and Jamboree		0	0	2,400
Patriotic Events		55	608	61
Instructor Training Contributions		0	0	0
Grants to Groups		6,402	330	0
Legacy			0	0
Rents, Maintenance and Insurance				
Rent		3,002	1,452	948
Repairs and Renewals	9	0	0	0
Insurance		966	924	884
Equipment	10	2,558	1,380	1,185
Establishment Expenses				
Admin inc Postage and Stationery	11	1,364	427	772
Travel		44	91	0
Training	12	497	663	100
Badges and Uniform		748	626	231
Thank-Yous		0	0	0
Cost of Goods Bought for Resale		12,804	12,892	12,679
Accountancy, Bank and Professional Costs				
Bank Charges		969	758	758
Licences		180	360	0
Other				
Cash Adjustment		0	0	0
Stock Adjustment		15	0	650
Total Payments		£39,433	£29,009	£26,774
Net of Receipts/(Payments)		£2,743	£23	-£4,773

Assets	Notes	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets				
Stock and Work in Progress	13	25,230	25,230	22,530
Bank/ Building Society Balances	14	109,505	53,460	54,583
Scout Association Short Term Investment		-	57,472	56,813
Cash	15	1,357	1,682	1,021
Other Assets				
Loans to Groups		-	-	-
Treasury Stock		1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Assets (world pay)		4,454	-	-
Liabilities	16			(2883)
Total		£141,546	£138,844	£138,830
Total Assets 2023		£138,844	£138,830	
Net of Receipt/(Payments)		£2,743	£23	
Total Assets 2024		£141,587	£138,853	
Difference		£41.14 card declined £41		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

B U D S

On accounts for the year
ended

2023/24

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 2023/24.

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:

Angela Ballard

Date:

24/6/2024

Name:

Angela Ballard

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body