

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

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3	1	0	3	2	5
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From (start date

to end date

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Blackwater Valley District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

3	0	2	1	0	1
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Registered charity number (if any)

1	0	0	0	1	1	7	1
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HQ registration number

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

Charity's principal address

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Michael Hughes	Chair	
Pamela Mikulskis	Treasurer	
Andrew Blake	Secretary	
Dawn Mahoon	District Lead Volunteer	
Colin Slatter		
Emma Buckett		
Linda Moyle		
Claire Hewitson		
Rebecca Riley		
Melody Baxter		

Ellie Williams	Youth Commr.	
John Glanville		

(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)

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- 14
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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

The district's governing documents are those of 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.

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted

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

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods

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

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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 10 trustees. The District Lead Volunteer is an ex-officio trustee by virtue of the role.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee, Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR and Who we are and what we do learning within the timescales prescribed in POR.

The District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, assesses risk, mitigates risk, and ensures buildings and equipment are in good working order, and that 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)

Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the district is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems put in place to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment.

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.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

The district through the membership fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising.

The district is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and surplus generated by Scout Shop trading. The district holds 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.

Reduction or loss of leaders.

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 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.

Risk and Internal Control

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 policy to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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>The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

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 of training.

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making.
- contribution made by volunteers.
- policy on investments.

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.

Hardship

Cases of hardship are treated considerably, on a case-by-case basis, by the Trustee Board.

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

Public benefit statement

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.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustee Board

Made good choices in investing surplus funds at high interest rates

Assisted in funding a successful St Georges Day
Supported and encouraged all groups to adopt trustee best practice.

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 burden of cost of living.

Managed the recovery of one group following financial mismanagement.

Opened four additional Squirrel Dreys.

Provided financial support to 4th Aldershot Scout group following financial mismanagement by the previous Lead Volunteer. Charity Commission informed and Hampshire Police are dealing with the matter.

Section E

Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

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 adopted the stance that its funds should, where possible, only support the improvement of local scouting.

Quantify and explain any designations

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

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

None

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 well balanced. In 2024-25 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, because of cost increases in utilities and general rises in other costs. The trustees decided to use some of their reserves to support district expenditure. Surplus 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

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)

Full name(s)

<i>M J Hughes</i>	
Michael John Hughes	
Chair	

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £	2023 £
Membership				
Subscriptions	1	70,133	70,133	51,496
Less: Membership to be paid on		64,582	64,582	48,610
Net membership retained		5,551	5,551	2,886
Activities				
Explorer Activities and Camps	2	9,454 0	9,454	3,557
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	3	2,340	2,340	2,622
District Activities	4	0	0	0
Active Support Unit		0 0	0	0
Archery Club		4,120	4,120	1,718
DHQ Bar		58	58	134
Training	5	0	0	0
Recruitment inc Youth Involvement		0		
Special Camps		0	0	1,200
Fundraising				
Funds raised for other charities			0	0
Active			0	26
Donations		3,469	3,469	0
Grant		578	578	330
Misc Income		162	162	0
OSM		475		
Investment Income				
Bank/Building Society Interest		63	63	69
Bond Interest		0	0	0
Gift Aid		0	0	0
Deposit Account Interest		3,071	3,071	659
compensation		736		
Sales				
Shop Sales		12,309	12,391	7,347
Badge Sales		7,777	7,777	8,485
uniform sales		82		
Total Receipts		£50,242	£49,031	£29,032

	2022
	£
	46,274
	40,522
	5,752
	2,973
	1,480
	0
	0
	1,644
	188
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
	150
	700
	0
	1
	0
	0
	95
	7,710
	1,308
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Payments	Notes	2025	2024	2023
		£	£	£
Activities and Events				
District Activities and Events	6	50	0	50
Scout, Cub & Beavers Activities	7	1,895	945	1,929
Explorers Activities and Camps	8	10,668	7,901	5,191
Active Support Unit			0	50
Archery Club		236	100	577
Recruitment inc Youth Involvement			0	0
iScout		1,065	543	785
Awards		110	100	0
Special Camps			0	0
Fundraising Costs & Donations				
Donations			240	0
Active Support Unit			0	0
District and Jamboree			0	0
Patriotic Events		234	55	608
Instructor Training Contributions			0	0
Grants to Groups		11,448	6,402	330
Legacy				0
Transfers		3,469		
Rents, Maintenance and Insurance				
Rent		3,075	3,002	1,452
Repairs and Renewals	9		0	0
Insurance		1,023	966	924
Equipment	10	857	2,558	1,380
Till		426		
Establishment Expenses				
Admin inc Postage and Stationery	11	1,682	1,364	427
Travel		157	44	91
Training	12	575	497	663
Badges and Uniform		572	748	626
Thank-Yous		0	0	0
OSM		1,080		
Cost of Goods Bought for Resale		11,675	12,804	12,892
Misc		963		
Accountancy, Bank and Professional Costs				
Bank Charges		497	969	758
Licences		180	180	360
Other				
Cash Adjustment		120	0	120
Stock Adjustment		300	15	300
Transfer to spitfires				
Total Payments		£52,356	£39,433	£29,009
Net of Receipts/(Payments)		-£2,114	£2,743	£23

2022

£

0

1,802

3,332

0

21

0

817

50

0

0

85

2,400

61

0

0

0

948

0

884

1,185

772

0

100

231

0

12,679

758

0

0

650

£26,774

-£4,773

Assets	Notes	2025	2024	2023
		£	£	£
Current Assets				
Stock and Work in Progress	13	28,950	25,230	25,230
Bank/ Building Society Balances	14	36,214	38,483	53,460
Scout Association Short Term Investment		-	-	57,472
Cash	15	619	1,357	1,682
Deposit Account	15a	72,490	71,022	
Other Assets				
Loans to Groups		-	-	-
Treasury Stock		1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Assets (world pay)		32	4,454	-
Liabilities	16	-		
Total		£139,305	£141,546	£138,844
Total Assets 2024		£141,546	£138,844	£138,830
Net of Receipt/(Payments)		-£2,114	£2,743	£23
Total Assets 2025		£139,432	£141,587	£138,853
Difference		£127.42	£40.81 card declined £41	

	2022
	£
	22,530
	54,583
	56,813
	1,021
	-
	1,000
	-
	(2883)
	<hr/>
	£138,830
	<hr/>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Blackwater Valley District

On accounts for the year
ended

2024 - 2025

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

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 Ballaro

Date:

18.6.2025

Name:

Angela Ballaro

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

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