

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group
Registration Number: 303755
230 Park Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT2 5LT

Trustees
Chair: Andrew Meek
Treasurer: Nathan Timothy Friel
Trustee: Stewart Nash

Trustees' Report 2023

This report covers the period 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Structure

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group operates primarily as a centre for Scouting activities for young people.

There are three Sections, Beavers (age 6-8), Cubs (age 8-10.5) and Scouts (age 10.5-14). Scouting is inclusive, all children are welcome to join regardless of gender, religion or ethnicity.

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group operates a waiting-list policy for all Sections. The Beaver group in 2023 is over subscribed. In order to manage the Beaver waiting list, children must be a minimum of 5 years old to apply.

Once a child leaves Scouts at 14 years of age they can join an Explorer Group (age 14-18) within the district. They can then volunteer through a Young Leader Scheme, in which they will continue their journey through Scouting by assisting the young people. It is hoped that they can start to share the knowledge and skills gained and take on small responsibilities to help the Leaders.

Each Section has a qualified Adult Leader, registered with Scouting UK. They are assisted by another registered adult and often by Young Leaders. We also encourage parent helpers to attend our meetings. All assistance and involvement is provided on a voluntary basis.

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group operates a Group Executive Committee (GEC). This comprises elected members including the Treasurer and usually one other Trustee. At meetings, these members invite other Section Leaders (and any assistants), a Secretary and Parental Representatives are also invited to attend. Meetings are formally recorded and minuted to provide a report for any actions necessary.

It would be great to continue to spend funds on Scouting activities like camps now that numbers are up and social distancing has eased.

Some more expenditure may be required to improve the MAC to fulfil its potential on the inside and outside. Other areas meriting future improvement would be the store and the Store. We are actively working towards a complete rebuild of the store and are fundraising to further this project.

We will continue to re-invest our rental income to support Scouting activities and to maintain and improve the 1st Kingston Hill facilities. We operate a prudent reserves policy designed to ensure we can meet 12 months of essential expenditure. From time to time our cash balance may exceed the reserve requirement as we build towards a significant premises improvement project.

We are particularly interested in replacing 'The Store', which is the building that occupies the land behind the car park. This building is very old and has become a concern, we have made some structural remedial works to prolong its life but it is going to become unsafe in the near future. We would like to replace this building with another of the same size to mitigate any planning issues and to continue to benefit from the ample storage it provides. We will certainly have to raise a significant amount of money and likely borrow some, to be able to fund this project.

Recognition and Gratitude

As Trustees, we are really pleased to have overseen the return to 'in person Scouting' and also the various improvements and initiatives being taken at 1st Kingston Hill Scout Group to continue to develop, challenge and support those young people in our Beaver, Cub and Scout communities. The investment and future plans noted above will allow the Section Leaders and other volunteers to continue to provide varied and engaging activities in the future and to develop the 1st Kingston Hill site to ensure similar opportunities continue to be available for generations to come.

None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication and commitment of the Section Leaders and the myriad of volunteers that offer their time and experience to enhance the success of the Group. We would like to thank each and every individual that has given up their time to support 1st Kingston Hill Scout Group in 2022 and 2023 and express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing service and support.

Nathan Friel, Treasurer
Andrew Meek, Chair

Financial Review

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group operates with two bank accounts. The first is used for day to day spending, the Community Account, while the second is a savings account, Guy's Account (which also holds deposit funds from Beavers). The control mechanism for the Community Account is a complex mandate and it requires two signatures to release funds. Currently the Community Account is the Chair and Treasurer. The bank accounts are monitored through internet banking.

Balance of Community Account at year end was £5,097.74

Balance of Business Premium Account at year end was £38,795.82

Income

Over the last year our overall income has increased on the previous year from £39,271.68 to £58,073.41.

Hall hire has remained popular with people choosing our Hall as a weekend venue to celebrate children's parties and other events. Our new parent volunteers have stepped into the role of managing the bookings. This involves communicating with hire companies, managing the handover of keys. We are extremely grateful for their continued efforts and a job that deals directly with the public and is certainly not always an easy task.

Hunningsbirds Montessori Nursery continues to operate from and hire our hall, they are now in their third academic year. They open weekdays during term-time and offer extra provision during the holidays. Some minor changes have occurred in the way they are allocating their storage space for equipment and an office from which they manage their administration. They operate on a 'pack away' basis which helps to reduce the visual impact and retain the character of the Hall for the Scouts and other users. Our Savings Account holds deposit money (£1,400) from this enterprise.

During the COVID pandemic, following advice from Scouting UK, meetings were conducted on digital platforms. We have returned to our previous meetings in the Hall. We have instigated a policy that includes measures to control the spread of infectious diseases. These measures include one-way systems of entry and exit, sanitising stations, temperature checks and increased communications when persons are unwell. This way we were able to offer quality Scouting to the kids. Even though this has led to extra work for our Leaders it has made Scouting a lot safer for everyone.

Our usual termly subscriptions are £42.50 per child. We offer reduced rates for families unable to meet this cost, at our discretion on an individual basis. Our rates have remained at this price point for 4 years, during the pandemic we cancelled subscriptions and only asked for donations due to Scouting being conducted on digital platforms at that time. We have continued to make use of this technology

The Hall at 230 Park Road is used for Scout meetings and activities and the field behind is used for outdoor activities and camps. When the Hall is not being used for Scouting activities at weekends and evenings, it is available for the public to hire as a venue. The bookings are administered by a parent volunteer.

During School term-time the Hunningsbirds Montessori Nursery hires the Hall and field during the day for their own use. They offer day care for children between the ages of 2.5-5 years of age.

Activities

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group operates during School term-time. Each Section meets once a week to develop new skills. Each child is encouraged to develop as an individual and to be a team player. Progress can allow the child to receive a badge as a mark of their achievement.

Other activities throughout the year include overnight camps, which are conducted at 1st Kingston Hill or at other campsites. The aim is to have several camps each year, typically Summer Camp, Winter Camp, Survival Camp and a Young Leaders' Camp. When the camps are conducted at our premises we can use the large field and offer the shelter of the Hall to younger members if the weather is poor.

Each year, 1st Kingston Hill Scout Group celebrates Guy Fawkes' Night with a fireworks display. Tickets are made available to those who have children in the group. Tickets are priced affordably, as the event is not intended to make a surplus. There is a firework display, barbeque and bar.

Several times a year we invite parents to come and assist in maintenance of the Hall and field. This usually happens over the course of a weekend, which allows people to volunteer for a few hours at a time of their choosing. The work usually involves redecorating, minor repairs, hedge trimming etc. The parental involvement helps to maintain the hall and field and allows parents to meet the Leaders informally and for the parents to meet each other. It makes a huge difference to the enjoyment of our facilities.

Objectives

1st Kingston Hill Scout Group engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

During Group Executive Committee (GEC) meetings: if people cannot attend in person.

It has been possible to restart activities like camps. These have been sorely missed over the past few years. Our camps are designed to encourage good attendance and to make them attainable to most children. Parents from Hall hire contributes to make up the shortfall in funds which last year was 20%.

During the year we received three donations of £300.00 from The Jack Petchey Foundation, this award celebrates achievements by young people, so well done all involved.

Expenditure

Over the last year our expenditure has increased from £44,089.26 to £49,294.76.

Expenditure is up this year mainly down to camps restarting. We have spent some money on replacing aging camp equipment that had become unusable. Camps are a good opportunity for children to try adventurous activities. Camp activities last year included Climbing, Potholing, Crate-stacking and Cresta-run sledging. Summer camp also included a trip to Legoland.

Large amounts of repairs and improvements have been achieved over the last few years and have helped to reduce our maintenance bills recently. We have invested in some new fencing in the field. This has allowed us to secure equipment solely used for Scouting purposes behind a barrier. We also now have two enclosed areas which are suitable for activities like Archery, Fire-lighting and Woodcraft, all of which are safer with this new containment.

Improvements have been made to the outdoor buildings and we can now offer Air Rifle and Pistol shooting in a safe environment.

We have invested in a defibrillator which hopefully won't ever be necessary to use.

Utilities and Insurance have continued to increase, although this year's figures now include both internet-connection and cleaning charges.

Spending on Scouting activities has been up on recent years, due mainly to camps starting again. We also spent money on Guy Fawkes' Night celebrations and a visit to Hampton Court Ice Rink for ice skating.

Future Plans

Our Scout Group has survived the pandemic in good shape, we are now back to regular meetings and activities. We have maintained excellent numbers and now offer Scouting to 75 children through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We also have 5 Young Leaders (age 14-18) and 9 Adult Leaders and 12 members of the GEC.

Table 1

1st Kingston Hill Scouts 2022-23		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March		Totals	2021-22
Income																
Donations			12.73												£12.73	£130.00
Membership subscriptions		337.50	2510.68	165.58		85.00	127.50	2795.35	325.64	167.22	252.22	1233.30	1266.11		£9266.10	£7706.81
Gift Aid															£0.00	£0.00
Fund Raising			1237.31	400.00				300.00		600.00		200.58			£2737.89	£1532.59
Camps and Activities		2634.62	2628.90	3812.42	266.45	2743.02	275.10	1378.81	890.20	607.27	237.73	112.50	1069.66		£16656.68	£5104.50
Hall Hire		5260.00	3420.00	560.00	1920.00	360.00	7060.00	1840.00	625.00	400.00	6360.00	400.00	1120.00		£29325.00	£24795.32
Bank Interest				2.29			9.33			18.05			45.37		£75.04	£2.46
Total Income		£8232.12	£9809.62	£4940.29	£2186.45	£3188.02	£7471.93	£6314.16	£1840.84	£1792.54	£6849.95	£1946.38	£3501.14		£58073.44	£39271.68
Expenditure																
Camps and Activities			990.67	300.00	9074.96	1671.91	215.26	821.66	5594.64		914.00	520.80			£20103.90	£3830.79
Expenses		990.00	2424.66	349.00	926.84				224.10	1372.79	449.13	359.28			£7095.80	£9020.53
Badges, Uniforms and Leader Training			580.04	747.87					611.46			110.00			£2049.37	£0.00
Van															£0.00	£0.00
Property Maintenance			177.90	949.46	2648.88	2537.23		87.48	655.61						£7056.56	£21306.00
Utilities		213.54	163.38	430.02	417.45	457.95	396.33	406.73	458.11	640.38	500.92	1009.23	792.23		£5886.27	£4335.59
Refund			590.00								15.00				£605.00	£170.00
Insurance		2634.76													£2634.76	£2546.35
Capitation												3862.50			£3862.50	£2880.00
Bank Charges															£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£3838.30	£4926.65	£2776.35	£13068.13	£4667.09	£611.59	£1315.87	£7543.92	£2013.17	£1879.05	£5861.81	£792.23		£49294.16	£44089.26
Balance															£8779.28	
Total Funds 2021-22															£29358.78	
Total Funds 2022-23															£38138.06	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
1ST KINGSTON HILL SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

31-03-2023 Charity no (if any) 303755

Set out on pages

(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 31/03/2023.

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:

14-9-2023

Name:

Ariane Novak

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Certified Public Accountant CPA

IER

1

Oct 2018

(if any):

Address:

22 Wyndham Rd
Kingston upon Thames
KT2 5JS

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.

IER

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Oct 2018