



Wistaston Scout Group (35th South West Cheshire)

Registered Charity No: 520281

www.wistastonscoutgroup.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 2022

At the end of 2021 Face to Face Scouting restarted, during lockdown in common with Scouting nationally we had lost over 20% of our youth membership, however unlike many other groups, we retained the majority of our leaders.

Our young leader programme where youth members aged 14 to 18 years continues to pay dividends. Once they reach 18 years of age, they can apply to become adult leaders. So although some of our adult leaders did leave during the pandemic the young leader programme provided new leaders for the group.

As things started to settle down after the easing of restrictions so our number began to build up to pre pandemic levels and by the end of 2022 our annual census shows having regained most to the lost ground.

We were able to resume camping activities for all sections in 2022. Camping for scouts was very important as we had a summer camp planned for July and for the majority of our scouts this would be their first weeklong camp. We managed to get in a number of weekend camps to get in some vital training for summer camp. In addition our beavers and cubs were able to enjoy weekend camps for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Camping is a vital part of the scout programme with all training geared towards the highlight of the year, Summer Camp.

This year we returned to a familiar camp site (to us) in Criccieth. We use a farmer's field

which is known in Scouting as a “Green Field Site”. The only amenities on site are a water supply, and plenty of fallen timber. Both are vital, water for obvious reasons, timber is needed as all cooking is done over open altar fires, these consist of half a steel drum mounted on legs. Unlike fire pits Altar fires do not require a patch of earth to be dug out and do little or no damage to the ground on which they are mounted.

We had a new management team for this camp and they provided a week long experience which was a huge success. We took over 50 youngsters to the camp, the numbers were boosted by Explorer Scouts from Drake ESU who meet in our scout centre. Plans are now underway for the 2023 Summer Camp which will be on Anglesey.

I had stated my intention to stand down as GSL once a replacement could be found. Alex Smith volunteered to be Deputy GSL an offer that was gladly accepted. He was the 2022 Summer Camp leader for the first time and made an excellent job of that. A couple of weeks later I was admitted to hospital which turned out to be an 18 week incarceration followed by a lengthy recovery period. During that time Smithy was at the helm and did a fantastic job for which I and the group are very grateful. With him on board as my deputy I will delay my retirement “Once a scout always a scout”

Despite the challenges resulting from lockdown where most of the weekly meetings were on Zoom we were still able to award in 2022 a total of 10 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards (Beavers), and 3 Chief Scouts Gold Awards (Scouts)

Once again, the group is grateful for the continued support from the Parish Council. As ever they made the offer of funding towards equipment. For once we declined that offer, mainly because the lack of outdoor activities in 2020 and 2021 meant that we did not have any major items of equipment needing replacement, I suspect that will not be the case for the 2024/5 budget!

Finally I must pay a huge thankyou to our leaders (including our young leaders) for the amazing work they have done to provide scouting during the pandemic and helping the group to recover from the effects of the pandemic. When thanking the adult leaders I must include their wives, husbands, partners, girlfriends and boyfriends (I believe in sporting circles they are known as WAGS and HABS) for their continued support. Without their

assistance we could not provide the quality scouting to our young people which they receive.

John Bennett

Group Scout Leader

07825 091114,

gsl@wistastonscoutgroup.co.uk

SURPLUS AND LOSS ACCOUNT - 2022 Year To Date

INCOME

Subs			
Current Year - 2022	£	12,600.00	
Previous Year - 2021	£	48.00	£ 12,648.00
Fundraising Etc.			
Fundraising	£	706.85	
Donations	£	2,230.44	
Grants	£	-	£ 2,937.29
Miscellaneous			
Gift Aid	£	-	
Camps & Activities	£	10,429.80	
Floats/Cashing Cheques	£	-	
Interest	£	-	
Explorer Rent	£	112.50	
Centre Hire Income	£	240.00	
Other	£	500.00	£ 11,282.30
New HQ Funding		£ -	
		£ 26,867.59	
Transfers between accounts (Excluded from Income/expenditure)			
Moving from			
Natwest Main Account		10000.00	
Natwest Activities account		0.00	
OSM Payment Cards		0.00	
Moving To			
Natwest Main Account		0	
Natwest Activities account		0	
OSM Payment Cards		10000	
Transfer balance		0.00	
TOTAL Income		<u>£ 26,867.59</u>	

Opening Balances 01/01/2021

Cash	£	-
Natwest Main Account	£	36,964.36
Natwest Activities account	£	1,023.58
OSM Payment Cards	£	-
Unbanked Cheques	£	-
Assets		
Liabilities	£	-
Total	£	37,987.94

EXPENDITURE

Utilities			
Electricity	£	598.00	
Water	£	388.82	
Gas	£	551.80	
Phone/Broadband	£	172.51	£ 1,711.13
General			
Training	£	360.00	
Insurance	£	1,429.97	
Capitation	£	4,929.00	
Subs Expenditure	£	156.80	
Hygiene services	£	384.95	
HQ Expenditure	£	3,693.33	£ 10,954.05
Equipment			
Scout & Guide Shop	£	773.52	
Camping Gas	£	129.00	
General	£	410.41	£ 1,312.93
Sectional Expenses		£	804.66
Floats/Cashing Cheques		£	-
Fundraising Expenditure		£	254.06
Camp & Activity Expenditure		£	11,894.35
Gifts		£	50.79
Other		£	705.40
New Equipment Expenditure		£	999.95
		£	28,687.32
Net Surplus		-£	1,819.73
		<u>£</u>	<u>26,867.59</u>

Current Balance

Cash	£	-
Natwest Main Account	£	26,215.50
Natwest Activities account	£	4,838.44
OSM Payment Cards	£	5,114.27
Unbanked Cheques	£	-
Assets	£	-
Liabilities	£	-
Total	£	36,168.21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

35th SWC

SCOUT GROUP/DISTRICT/COUNTY/AREA SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the Group/District/County/Area for the year ended 31/12/22 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's/District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group/District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *):

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn 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

Name: Simon Bestmao
Qualification: General Bank Manager
Address: 53 SANDYLANDS PARK
WISHTON CROFT
Date: 18th SEPTEMBER 2023