2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group

Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024



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CHARITY DETAILS

Group Registration Number with The Scout Association 7165

Charity Registration Number

303709

Principal Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc Market Place Romford Branch

Contact Name and Address

David Rogers 11 Deyncourt Gardens Upminster, RM14 1DF

TRUSTEE BOARD

Lee Owen

Trustees

Trustee name Office (if any) Date acted if not for whole year Michael Roome **Group Chair David Rogers Group Treasurer** Julia Rogers **Group Secretary** Michelle Barkwith **Debbie Carter** Olly Clark Rebecca Cox From 30/06/2023 James Jaques Nicola Newton

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Type of governing document

The Group'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.

How the charity is constituted

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

Transformation

In April 2023, Executive Committees and Executive Committee Members were renamed as Trustee Boards and Trustees respectively. Doing this brings us in line with good practice guidance set by charity regulators. It also clarifies purpose.

Trustee responsibilities

2nd Upminster Scouts is an educational charity, and the Trustee Board has overall control of the charity and is responsible for making sure the Group 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.

Trustee Board membership and appointments

From 1 April 2024, trustee boards in Scouting are making changes to their membership. These include how trustees are appointed, term limits, who can be a trustee and how many trustees they have.

Trustees may be ex officio, appointed, or co-opted. An ex officio trustee is automatically a member of the Trustee Board because of their role in Scouts. At 2nd Upminster the Group Lead Volunteer (the new name for the Group Scout Leader) is an ex officio trustee. The Chair, Treasurer and other appointed trustees are all appointed at Annual General Meetings (AGMs) by the Scout Council, based on the outcome of an open selection process. Co-opted trustees may be appointed by the board during the year to do a particular task, or to bring new skills to the mix.

Trustee selection methods

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

How the charity is managed

Historically, the Group has been managed by a Group Executive Committee whose members were also our charity trustees. In April 2023, Executive Committees and Executive Committee Members in Scout Groups, Scout Districts and Scout Counties were redesignated as Trustee Boards and Trustees respectively. This change brought Scouting into line with good practice guidance set by charity regulators underlining the difference between governance and support tasks.

A new Trustee Board purpose has been included in The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation, and Rules (POR) to make sure Trustee Boards are focused on governance tasks, rather than operational tasks. This means Trustee Boards will focus only on good charity governance and responsibility for support and operational tasks will sit with other volunteers such as the Group Leadership Team.

During the year under review, we have been working towards the separation of the governance and support roles, but this transition is currently still work in progress.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group 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:

Safeguarding incidents involving Scouting members.

This is mitigated by following The Scout Association's adult appointment process which includes carrying out DBS checks for those performing regulated activity; a national vetting process; and a clear system for reporting concerns. Volunteers are required to complete mandatory safeguarding training within the timeframes set out in the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Training completion and renewal is monitored within the Group and by the District Trustee Board.

Risk to the health and safety of leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

This is mitigated through mandatory safety training for volunteers, which is monitored by the District Trustee Board through monthly reporting of completion and renewal data; adherence to the requirements of the adventurous activity permit scheme; and following the provisions of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Related financial risks are mitigated through capitation fees contributed to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy and other insurances arranged through Scout Insurance Services Limited. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Damage to the buildings, property and equipment.

The Group has buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against these potential losses.

Reduced income.

The Group is primarily reliant upon income from youth member subscriptions. The Group 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 Group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders.

The Group is wholly reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If the number of volunteers reduced to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group, this would lead to a contraction, consolidation or closure of the affected section or in the worst case to the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members.

The Group provides activities for all young people aged four to 14. If the number of youth members in a particular section or the Group reduced to an unacceptable level, this would lead to a contraction, consolidation or closure of the affected section or in the worst case to the complete closure of the Group.

Internal Control

The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all bank payments and insurance policies to ensure insurable risks are covered.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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.

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.

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.

Our place in Scouting

2nd Upminster Scouts is a 'unit' of Scouting in the United Kingdom offering Scouting to boys and girls between the ages of four and 14. We have a sponsorship agreement with St. Laurence Church, Upminster and hold our usual weekly meetings in halls at the Church.

Our organisation

We currently operate one Squirrels Drey, two Beaver Colonies, Two Cub Packs and once Scout Troop.

Charity Commission's public benefit criteria

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements and performance

The Lead Volunteers' Report below describes the overall activities of the Group during the year. This is followed by a list of volunteers and section reports giving an insight into the main activities and achievements of the individual sections.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results

Overall receipts for the year exceeded payments by £1,970 and this surplus has been added to accumulated funds resulting in a carried forward balance at the end of the year of £14,842.

The main contributors to the result for the year were:

Receipts		
Membership subscriptions	£19,051	67.1%
Scouting activity charges	£4,256	15.0%
Gift Aid tax refund	£4,310	15.2%
Other	£766	2.7%
Total	28,383	100.0%
Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on	6,261	23.7%
Youth programme expenses	15,898	60.2%
Programme support expenses	4,254	16.1%
Total	£26,413	100.0%

Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the Group's income. The reclaim in 2023/24 in respect of subscriptions received in the previous year represented almost 95% of the theoretical maximum we could have claimed.

Details of the Group's receipts and payments, and assets and liabilities are reported on pages 13 and 14.

Financial controls

The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all bank payments and insurance policies to ensure insurable risks are covered.

Reserves policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient cash funds and monetary assets to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs, circa £10,000.

Investment policy

The Group's income and expenditure is relatively small and consequently it does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low-risk strategy for the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

The Group Trustees regularly monitor the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the Group 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 Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24 June 2024. Signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Michael Roome Group Chair

LEAD VOLUNTEERS' REPORT

Meetings, meetings, meetings...

2nd Upminster continues to thrive, offering Scouting to boys and girls between the ages of four and 14. In addition to our usual weekly meetings in the Church Halls, we continue to organise diverse and valuable Section outings and camps, and participate in District events.

Programme

Our programme is based around weekly section meetings delivered in the Church halls supplemented by camps and outdoor activities and opportunities to join with other local Scout Groups in larger events organised by the local Scout District and County. We offer activities, badges and nights away opportunities designed to develop skills for life for our young people delivered by our amazing team of volunteers.

Membership

The Group continues to attract applications from more young people than can be accommodated by the existing leadership team and the existing sections. Actual membership numbers change frequently as members join, move between sections and leave, but the numbers reported in our annual census provide a useful insight:

	January 2024	January 2023
Squirrels	19	-
Beavers	26	33
Cubs	41	53
Scouts	34	24
Total youth members	120	110
Young leaders	2	4
Adults – uniformed leaders	33	26
Adults – others	5	7
_Total	160	147

Sections

In April 2023, we added a new Squirrels section which extends the Scouting formula to young people between four and six years old. The new section began with about a dozen youth members but has since grown materially.

Volunteering

Scouting at 2nd Upminster is made possible by the teamwork of our leaders and helpers who are all parents of current or past youth members or who were themselves members in their childhood. We rely on new parents joining this team effort to ensure our continued success and as a result we give priority to applications with an adult family member who can help.

During the last year, Scouting in the UK has introduced a transformation programme aimed at making volunteering with Scouts easier, more enjoyable and rewarding. This change includes moving to teams-based volunteering which effectively formalises what we have been doing in some of our sections for several years. We operate very flexible volunteering arrangements: some people get involved almost every week, some help once or twice a month and others less frequently. Our philosophy is that 'many hands make light work'.

As always, we want to thank our uniformed leaders (both adults and Young Leaders) and supporters for their hard work and dedication during the year under review; without them the Group would not exist and would not be able to continue to deliver such high-quality Scouting.

Our History

2nd Upminster Scouts first opened in 1924. We will be holding a family camp in July as part of our centenary celebrations and hope to include lots of past members and leaders. If you have been involved with the Group in past years, please do get in touch via our website to tell us about your place in our history.

Mike Roome & David Rogers (Acting Lead Volunteers)

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

This is a list of adult volunteers and young leaders (YL) working in the Group at the time this report was prepared.

Programme Delivery

<u>Squirrels</u> **Gridiron Beavers Holden Beavers** Sukh Nahr Bex Cox Waiman Tang Georgina Delaney Iris Huard **Carl Jacobs** Joanna Edge Thomas Kent David Hayward Louise Hardy Bex Cox Stuart Martin Paula Winter Sarah Read Michelle Cutter **Natalie Chestnutt** Simon Gerrish Mariam Ahmed

Natalie Jeeves

Travis James (YL)

Derham Cubs Tampa Bay Cubs **Scouts** James Jaques Michelle Barkwith Olly Clark Lee Owen Nicola Newton Louise Horsley Ben Carter Sukh Nahr Sarah Chapman Natalie Jeeves **Brett Emblin** Kate French Chris Plume Lauren Broadhurst James Jaques

Jo Gutteridge Leah Featherstone

Rob Bowker June Brown Harry Constantinou (YL)

Suzie Carpenter Thomas Wood (YL)

Jack Talwar (YL)

Samuel Etherington (YL) Matthew Fendt-Brown (YL)

Programme Support

Isaac Horsley (YL)

Debbie Carter (Training)

Marie Sugrue (Membership Secretary)

SECTION REPORTS

Squirrels Report

What an amazing first year for Squirrels! We started our Drey with just 12 young people in April 2023 and have been busy ever since! We've been on bug hunts, built a bug hotel, made our own dens both indoors & outdoors, we did an animal encounter with our Beaver friends, and we've explored lots of things that Thriftwood has to offer including the cross bows, demolition ball, Inflata-BULL, assault course and of course, many a campfire. Our Squirrels have certainly found their singing voices, starting every meeting with our squirrel song and learning lots of new songs to sing round the campfire. We've visited the library, played crazy golf, went on the Thames Rocket in London and celebrated Christmas at the pantomime with our families. We've done lots of crafting, cooked lots of food including pizzas and pancakes and were lucky enough to have a firefighter, nurse and the police come to visit us too.

It's been a fantastic year for Squirrels, not only getting our Drey up and running but seeing the confidence the children have gained from trying different activities, making new friends and becoming part of our 2nd Upminster family. It was an incredible achievement to have 13 Squirrels earn their Chief Scout Acorn Award as well and we're really excited to welcome our new Squirrels and see what adventures the next year has in store for our Drey.

Gridiron Beavers Report

This year, the Gridiron Beavers experienced a variety of exciting activities including the cresta run, pedal bikes, and the tag arena, which enhanced their coordination, balance, and teamwork. They also enjoyed nature days, participating in pond dipping, den building and fire making, fostering a respect for the environment and basic survival skills.

The Beavers delved into science by learning how to make invisible ink, homemade lava lamps and bottle rockets and developed teamwork skills through a Task Master style session.

The Beavers celebrated the King's Coronation by singing the national anthem and engaged in many creative craft days like morse code bracelets, personalised photo frames and kiln-fired ceramic Christmas decorations. They also learned about different cultures by celebrating Diwali, Chinese New Year and Independence Day.

A significant achievement was taking home the District Beaver Challenge for the first time in years which demonstrated great problem solving and teamwork.

Nine brave Beavers participated in a joint science sleepover with the Tampa Bay Cubs contributing to their nights away badge which is incredible since some of them have just turned six!

Finally, we bid a big thank you and farewell to Leaders Jo, Jodie, and Rob who have moved on as their children swam up to Cubs. We warmly welcome new leaders Bex and Simon who have hit the ground running after joining us from Squirrels. This year has been full of fun, learning, and adventure and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Holden Beavers Report

Over the past year, the Holden Beaver Colony has soared to new heights, achieving a series of remarkable milestones and making substantial progress across a diverse array of activities. Our young members have been immersed in an educational journey filled with adventure and character development.

Our Beavers have ventured outdoors, deepening their appreciation for the environment and contributing to ecological preservation. They've delved into the wonders of local parks, gaining insights into wildlife conservation.

In our quest to nurture well-rounded individuals, the Beavers have engaged in science experiments, sparking their curiosity and analytical skills. They've tackled the Lighthouse Game, which not only illuminated their strategic thinking but also highlighted the importance of teamwork and communication.

Creativity and craftsmanship have been at the forefront, with our Beavers taking delight in arts and crafts. They've also reached out to the community, crafting Christmas cards for the residents of Derham House, spreading joy and festive cheer. Moreover, our Group has embraced scouting traditions with vigour, participating in flag ceremonies, badge work, and various Church Parade events. These activities have been instrumental in cultivating leadership, self-discipline, and mutual respect.

Excitingly, our Beaver Colony has recently welcomed five new leaders into our fold. Their expertise and diverse backgrounds have injected fresh perspectives, adding depth and knowledge to our already vibrant community. With their guidance, we're poised for even greater adventures and growth in the coming year.

We stand immensely proud of our Beavers' achievements and the personal growth they've demonstrated. Their zest, commitment, and thirst for knowledge have not only enriched our community but have also set a strong foundation for their future pursuits.

Tampa Bay Cubs Report

It has been another busy year for Tampa Bay Cubs. Although we are a large cub Group of 31 cubs, it doesn't stop us or the cubs from trying lots of activities new and old. We have litter picked, tubed, active tagged, cooked, hiked, ice skated to name but a few!

The cubs had a great time at the space sleepover, which was nice to share the experience with Gridiron beavers. Although we do have a lot of cubs of different ages and different abilities, it's great to see them all come together to produce some great evenings and hopefully some fantastic memories.

We have quite a few cubs pushing for silver awards which will be a great achievement, and also younger cubs that have joined the pack and haven't looked back.

Derham Cubs Report

There have been numerous highlights for Derham Cubs over the last twelve months. We've encouraged the Cubs to be socially responsible (whilst having fun!) so we undertook a sponsored litter pick to support the "Big Help Out" initiative, as part of the Coronation celebrations, and we took on personal challenges to support Children in Need. We also made the most of our local green spaces as we went on hikes around the Thames Chase Community Forest and Cranham Nature Reserve. We've enjoyed other sessions out in nature, as we had a great summer evening river dipping to see what creatures call the Ingrebourne Valley home, and made a night time visit to Parklands to detect the bats swooping over the lake.

Throughout the year we've worked towards numerous badges and developed our skills, such as cycling proficiency at St Andrews Park and improving our cooking with campfire evenings at Thriftwood. Eleven Derham Cubs made fantastic memories and friendships whilst engaging in loads of outdoor activities and team challenges at the annual District Cub Camp in May.

But the fun wasn't limited to outdoors, as we had an eye-opening evening in the hall when we met several fascinating creatures (e.g. snakes and owls) brought to us by Animal Encounters. We embraced other cultures and traditions, particularly as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations when we were fortunate to have a Martial Arts tutorial. We've tried new activities, including slime making in the hall and Tag Active at King George's Park. We sought the Cubs' input to plan the programme, so we returned for climbing at Rock Up at Christmas and have held plenty of themed game nights and scavenger hunts throughout the year.

It's been a busy twelve months and plenty more fun still to come!

Scout Troop Report

The scout section currently has experienced an increased level of retention throughout the year with 35 members. This is in large part due to the exciting programme but also likely to be due to the legacy of having two beaver colonies for four years now. As such there are plans in place to increase capacity. We have also benefited from having more of our former scouts return as young leaders. One of whom was awarded the Jack Petchey award, congratulations to Harry Constantinou. Two scouts received their chief scout gold award so congratulations also to Thomas Keiler and Sophia Ivanovich Machado.

The scout section have camped at the Secret Nuclear Bunker where they had an introduction to obstacle course racing and we camped at Thriftwood for a re run of the Traitor Camp which saw guest appearances from multiple Claudia Winkleman impersonators. Torrential rain saw to the campsite turning into a quagmire and a special thank you to the parents that helped us break camp a little early.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 2ND UPMINSTER (ST. LAURENCE) SCOUT GROUP

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group 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 2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Name Richard Davies

Qualification Chartered Accountant

Address 9 Goirle Avenue

Canvey Island

Essex SS8 8BJ

Date 29 May 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYN	1ENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
RECEIPTS			
Donations, legacies	Membership subscriptions	19,051	18,323
and similar income	Donations	253	291
	Gift Aid	4,310	3,145
	Other similar income	182	264
		23,796	22,023
Grants	Grants	300	
		300	-
Scouting activities	Camp receipts	3,410	1,534
	Other activity receipts	846	1,014
		4,256	2,548
Fundraising (gross)	Fundraising activities		
			-
Investment income	Interest received	31	18
		31	18
TOTAL RECEIPTS		28,383	24,589
PAYMENTS			
Charitable Payments	Membership subscriptions paid on	6,261	5,582
•	Youth programme and activities	10,452	9,217
	Adult support and training	-	10
	Hall hire	3,622	2,826
	Electricity	401	293
	Insurance - building and contents	612	573
	Insurance - accident and injury Banking services	1,756 512	1,036 463
	Uniforms	527	674
	Purchase of badges	1,482	933
	Equipment purchases (major items)	-	600
	Maintenance, repairs and renewals	342	88
	AGM and trustee expenses	-	-
	Miscellaneous expenses	<u>446</u> 26,413	22,779
Fundraising expenses	Fundraising expenses	-	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		26,413	22,779
CASH FUNDS			
27,011.01100	Cash funds last year end	12,872	11,062
	Net receipts/(payments)	1,970	1,810
	Cash funds this year end	14,842	12,872

STATEMENT OF ASSE	TS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2024	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
ASSETS			
Cash funds	Bank current accounts Bank deposit accounts Cash/Floats	14,842 - - 14,842	12,872 - - 12,872
Other monetary assets	Tax reclaims Camp and activity fees paid in advance Capitation fees paid in advance	4,258 100 6,261	4,094 - 5,582
	Uniform purchased available for resale Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group Insurance claims	- - -	-
		10,619	9,676
Investment assets	Investments		
Non monetary asset for charity's own use	Scouting equipment, furniture etc Badge stock	5,456	6,062
		5,456	6,062
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities	Accounts not yet paid Expenses incurred but not invoiced Camp and activity fees received in advance Subscriptions not yet paid Loans	50 - - -	-
	Other liabilities	50	
Contingent liabilities and	future obligations		_

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees 24 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Michael Roome Group Chair David Rogers Group Treasurer