

THE 1ST STANMORE SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2022 – 2023



We believe that through fun, friendship and everyday adventure, we challenge individuals to help them reach their potential and have a positive impact on society.

06th October 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of minutes of last Annual General Meeting – 29th September 2022
4. Approval and Adoption of Annual Reports and Accounts 2022-2023
 - a: Financial Review
 - b: Group and Section Reports
5. Election of Officers to the Group Executive Committee
 - a: Election of Acting Group Chairman
 - b: Election of Group Secretary
 - c: Election of Group Treasurer and Assistant Group Treasurer
 - d: Election of members of the Group Scout Council
 - e: Approval of Co-opted members
 - f: Approval of Group Scout Leader's nominations
 - g: Appointment of the Independent Examiner
6. Presentation of Badges and Awards
7. Concluding Remarks

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 Beaver Scout Section Report

 Cub Scout Section Report

 Scout Section Report

20. Awards

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-Officio Members:

Co Chairman	Mr Vipul Mehta Mr Sailesh Vekaria
Secretary	Mrs Jigna Patel
Treasurer	Mr Robert Curtis
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs Ona Jomaa
Group Scout Leader	Mr Ashley Martin
Beaver Scout Leader	Mrs Jackie McDowall
Cub Scout Leader	Mr Bhrat Patel
Scout Leader	Mr Duncan McDowall
Elected Members	Mr Vipul Mehta Mr Shailesh Vekaria
Bankers	HSBC
Charity Number	308168
Registration Number (TSA)	10011060
Contact Details	Group Headquarters 186 Marsh Lane, Stanmore, HA7 2SL Web: 1ststanmore.org.uk Email: mail@1ststanmore.org.uk T: 020 8952 9299 M: 07891 620 268 facebook.com/1stStanmore
Independent Reviewer	Mr David Miller

GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM (at 31st March 2023)

Managers

Group Scout Leader Ashley Martin

Beaver Scout Leaders

Beaver Scout Leader Jackie McDowall
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader Pratiksha Patel

Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Scout Leader Bhrat Patel
Assistant Cub Scout Leader Ramesh Dave
Assistant Cub Scout Leader Alkesh Shah
Section Assistant Itisha Patel
Young Leader/Section Assistant Ishaan Mehta

Scout Leaders

Scout Leader Duncan McDowell
Assistant Scout Leaders David Huntley
Lizzie King
Prasant Patel
Ashley Martin

Young Leaders

Beavers: Neil Braganza, Hadi Jomaa, Aaron Raval, Sahil Shah
Cubs: Iris Cliquet, Saahil Patel, David Stefan Toma, Shivam Vora, Joshua Litherland
Scouts: Celeste Cliquet, Kai Gohil, Thevesh Thevachandran, Krishan Karamshi

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Groups 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 Police, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association

The Group is a trust established under the rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the POR of The Scout Associations.

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the “Charity Trustees” of the Group which is an educational charity. As Trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustees consist of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leader and Assistants, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parent representatives, meeting a least four times per annum.

Members of the Trustees complete “Essential Information for Executive Committee” training within the first 5 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- Group public occasions
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required
- Appointing Administrator’s and Advisors other than those who are elected

RISK AND INTERNAL CONTROL

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- Damage to the building, property and equipment. Sufficient insurance is in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Scout Association provides a national accident insurance policy as part of the annual capitation paid by the Group.
- Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities
- Reduced income. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. A reserve is held to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. Subscriptions could be raised to increase income on an ongoing basis.
- Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer activities. There would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group
- Reduction or loss of members. There would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closures of the Group

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

GROUP OBJECTIVE 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

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 1st Stanmore Scout Group

29 September 2022 Meeting Minutes

1st Stanmore Scout Hut, 186 Marsh Lane, Stanmore HA7 2SL

1. WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS AND ACTING GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

Liza Martin

Liza welcomed everyone and introduced members of the Executive Committee and Elected Members. Liza thanked everyone who volunteers, particularly for their services during the pandemic, which has been greatly appreciated. Young Leaders were also praised.

Liza explained that the purpose of the AGM is to formally approve and adopt the annual reports and accounts (circulated ahead of the meeting via OSM), in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission's Guidelines.

Liza thanked Robert Curtis and Ona Jomaa for the accounts preparation and David Miller for being the independent examiner of the accounts.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Tyler Skelton, District Commissioner

3. MINUTES FROM LAST AGM 08 OCTOBER 2021

Proposed by Jackie McDowall, seconded by Ramesh Dave. Attendees voted all in favour with no questions arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. ACTING GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT – Gillan Barnard

Gillan explained that after the pandemic and change in leadership last year, she has stepped in as Acting GSL to guide and steer 1st Stanmore through this period of transition changes. GB reported that she has enjoyed working with the team during this time and thanked all of the Leaders and young people, with particular thanks to Ashley Martin who will be taking over as GSL. Gillan also thanks Liza for stepping in as Acting Chair during this time.

5. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The group should be proud of how it has stepped up post pandemic with change of leadership. Looking forward to next year with camps and trips for all sections including the Hareem Jamborette and continuing to work towards achieving the top awards for all children.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT - Robert Curtis

Robert presented the financial report and noted that during the reporting period, most of the costs have been in relation to the running of the building and capitations with a long period with no income due to the pandemic.

The resumption of fees only in the last three months of the year ended March following meant there were lower receipts than in a typical year and this consequently increased the annual deficit compared to the prior year. Despite that the financial situation of the 1st Stanmore Scout Group continues to be healthy despite the current low level of all activities and will improve as subscriptions are now once again being collected and the group continues to grow.

No questions were raised from the floor.

Liza informed the floor about the Executive Committee's decision to freeze subscriptions for the foreseeable future given the growing financial pressure on families at present to ensure that Scouting remains accessible for all. These may however have to be reviewed in the near future as the group's own cost pressures grow.

Liza thanked Rob and Ona for preparing and presenting the accounts. Liza also thanked Ona for her hard work in the day to day running of the finances including management of payments on OSM.

Vipul Mehta proposed the accounts, seconded by Sailesh Vekaria and Mandip Athwal. Unanimous agreement from the floor.

7. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair(s):** GSL Ashely Martin has appointed Vipul Mehta and Sailesh Vekaria who have agreed to co-chair this was unanimously approved by the floor.
- Secretary:** Liza Martin nominated Jigna Patel, Lizzie King seconded – this was unanimously approved by the floor.
- Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer:** Liza Martin nominated Rob Curtis as Treasurer and Ona Jomaa as Assistant Treasurer, Vipul Mehta and Jackie McDowell seconded – this was unanimously approved by the floor.
- Independent Reviewer:** Rob Curtis nominated Dave Miller as Independent Reviewer – Ashley Martin and Vipul Mehta seconded with unanimous agreement from the floor.

Ashley thanked Liza for her work in stepping in during difficult times for the group.

Section leaders

- Jackie MacDowall – Beavers
- Bhrat Patel – Cubs
- Duncan McDowall – Scouts

Elected members

We aim to have a parent representative from each section,

- Beaver parent rep role is vacant – no nominees on the night
- Sailesh Vekaria – Cubs – nominated by Ashley Martin, seconded by Ramesh Dave and unanimously approved by the floor
- Vipul Mehta – Scouts – nominated by Liza Martin, seconded by Ramesh Dave and unanimously approved by the floor

Nominated members

None at present

8. AOB

Leader Awards: Gillan Barnard presented the Jack Petchey award to Duncan McDowall

Gillan Barnard gave a special thanks to Eddy Morris for his long term services to Scouting and 1st Stanmore which would not be the group today without his dedication.

Ashley Martin thanked all Committee members for their service with a particular thanks to Mandip Athwal for his service on the Executive Committee as he steps down.

With no other business Liza Martin thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM.

ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

Treasurer's Report

I attach the Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, I am pleased to report that the financial situation of the 1st Stanmore Scout Group continues to be healthy as we ramp up activities post COVID restrictions

As we are a charity with income of less than £250,000 we prepare our annual statement on a basis which summarises the movement of cash into and out of the Trust during the financial year.

The level of receipts is typical and considerably higher than last year, when fees were charged only in the last three months of the year ended March.

I consider that the 1st Stanmore Scout Group is in a good position to continue now that pandemic restrictions are behind us.

Robert H Curtis CGMA, CFE, BSc
Honorary Treasurer

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
RECEIPTS	£	£
SCOUTING RECEIPTS		
Membership subscriptions	11,957	4,046
Less – Scout Association Capitation Fees	<u>3,828</u>	<u>2,519</u>
Net Membership Subscriptions	8,130	1,527
Camps & other Scouting Activities	14,325	0
Received in respect of Future Camps	0	0
	<u>14,325</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL SCOUTING RECEIPTS	22,454	1,527
HQ & OTHER RECEIPTS		
HQ Donations received	0	0
Other Donations received	1,200	0
Gift Aid received	453	6,183
Bank Interest received	<u>860</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL HQ & OTHER RECEIPTS	2,513	6,283
TOTAL RECEIPTS	24,967	7,810
PAYMENTS		
SCOUTING PAYMENTS		
Camps & other Scouting Activities	12,657	2,330
Scouting Equipment Purchased	0	0
Uniforms, Badges & Training	<u>283</u>	<u>85</u>
TOTAL SCOUTING PAYMENTS	12,940	2,415

HQ & OTHER PAYMENTS

Rent & Rates	184	140
Electricity & Gas	3,254	4,255
Water & Sewage	587	200
Telephone & Internet	554	1,760
Refuse Collection	281	422
Maintenance & Cleaning	230	1,176
Building Improvements	1,700	0
Building Insurance	1,753	1,433
Purchase of HQ Equipment	0	285
Admin & Office Costs	355	398
Bank & Credit Card Charges	60	0

TOTAL HQ & OTHER PAYMENTS 8,957 10,069

TOTAL PAYMENTS **21,897** **12,484**

NET (DEFICIT) / RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR **3,070** **(4,674)**

CASH FUNDS

Cash Funds – 01 April 2022 44,966 49,640

NET (DEFICIT) / RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 3,070 (4,674)

Cash Funds – 31 March 2023 **48,036** **44,966**

Cash Funds as at 31 March 2023 consist of the following :-

HSBC – Current account	10,927	8,491
HSBC – No. 2 a/c	0	226
Nationwide Building Society	10,408	10,193
Virgin Bank – Charity Reserve	26,701	26,056
	48,036	44,966

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Robert H Curtis CGMA, CFE, BSc
Treasurer

Shailesh Vekaria &
Vipul Mehta
Chairs

Date: 20 September 2023

Date: 25 Sept 2023

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. 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.

D R Miller FCA BSc

RESERVES POLICY

The Scout Group's Policy on Reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the activities of the Group for a period of at least 12 months in the event that income and fundraising activities fall short of our requirements. We continue to hold funds on reserve in the event that major roof works are required. Given the age of our building it is likely that major roof works will be required at some point in the future and the Trustees consider it prudent to hold funds on reserve to cover this.

GROUP SCOUT LEADER REPORT

Ashley Martin

After putting the challenging COVID years firmly behind us we have had our first successful full year, 1st Stanmore has come on leaps and bounds. Membership has grown back to near pre-pandemic attendance, more importantly our adult leadership team has been increased, giving our group and its potential a real boost.

It has not been without challenge and during the Christmas period we suffered a burst pipe which caused significant damage to our hut and threatened to derail the start of our activities in the new year. Our dedicated volunteers once again stepped in and spent much of their Christmas break containing then dealing with the damage caused and we were able to start back as planned.

Our strategy this year was to bring back as many camping and other opportunities for our young people to benefit from. Through dedication and the determination of a fantastic team, it has been a great year. Milestones achieved this year have included attending the District Camp for the first time in 18 years. A fantastic programme for our Beavers has included sleepover in a bunker and a real highlight was taking our Beavers narrow-boating where they met Santa Claus at Christmas.



Our annual trip to February Freezer saw more new child and adult members camp for the first time, in sub-zero temperatures! In June 2022 young people enjoyed a selection of water activities at Bury Lakes in Rickmansworth and planning (made more complex by post Brexit rules) also began for our first international trip to the Haarlem Jamborette, for a contingent of 26.

A key focus has also been progressing the adult leadership training and permit schemes. As a result Lizzie King has achieved her Archery UK certification, which has enabled us to now offer this popular activity as often as we can, and Alkesh Shah has achieved his Nights Away Permit, enabling more camping opportunities.

Taking part in cross cultural community activities is a core belief at 1st Stanmore, together we observed many festivals with our Young People. Bhrat and Ramesh ran a stall with a delicious variety of Indian street food at the District Activity Centre.



Leaders at Diwali celebrations

Stretching our Young People and supporting them in achieving their badges and awards has also been a key priority and we have seen children from all sections responding so well, putting in effort and motivation to achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards which we will be presenting at the AGM.

I too managed to achieve a highlight of my scouting career and collected my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at Buckingham Palace presented by the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward. It is important to me that Young People see that striving to broaden horizons and achievements is a lifelong endeavour, which Leaders themselves are also pursuing. This is a feat that I hope all of our young people will aspire to achieving in coming years and we encourage all of them to consider taking part in DofE either with us or through their schools.



I would like to thank all of the dedicated Volunteers, Leaders, Young Leaders Trustees and Young People and their families who have helped restore our group back to health.



BEAVER SCOUT COLONY

JACKIE McDOWALL (BEAVER SECTION LEADER)

Throughout the year the Beavers have had lots of fun and enjoyed participating in a variety of activities that have been promoting their life skills. They have enjoyed participating in the District Camp, going on the narrowboats to see Santa, joining in with the District for a bunker sleepover where they were able to go down into World War Two bunker, look through telescopes at the moon and slept under World War 2 spitfires. They have also enjoyed having sleepovers at the hut where we have had a campfire, sang songs made and enjoyed smores. The Beavers have enjoyed having their Halloween party where they all came in their costumes.

Throughout the year they have developed their life skills through a variety of activities. They have enjoyed participating with experiments, learning the basic first aid, learning knots, pioneering, doing lots of crafts.

They have also had the opportunity to participate in an air rifle shooting evening, join in the Remembrance Parade in Harrow and celebrate Christingle.

Throughout all of the activities the Beavers have been working hard towards their badges and 6 Beavers have been able to achieve their Bronze Award.

We had 24 Beavers throughout the year, 5 young leaders, 2 leaders and 2 occasional helpers who helped on a regular basis. I want to say a massive thank you to all leaders, young leaders and the parents who have all volunteered at camps and sleep overs as without your help and support the Beavers wouldn't have been able to have so much fun. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and new adventures that we will have.

Yours in scouting

Jackie McDowall (BL)

Pratiksha Patel (ABL)

Young Leaders: Neil Braganza, Hadi Jomaa, Aaron Raval, Sahil Shah

CUB PACK

BHRAT PATEL (CUB SECTION LEADER)

In writing this report I'm mindful that this was the first full year of Scouting post pandemic. We started the year with 14 Cubs and ended the year with 22 Cubs (after allowing for Cubs that moved up to Scouts section during the year). The growth in numbers is encouraging to see as it recognises the value the young people get out of scouting – developing friendship, developing #SkillsForLife, and having fun!



The year started with the district football tournament in April with the Cubs team reaching the final, a close match ending in the Cubs finishing the tournament as runners up – only 1 goal separating the finalists. Next tournament, we'll keep our fingers crossed to go one place further. During May, we had a sleepover at the scout hut for the cubs. An ideal opportunity to get (re)introduced to sleeping in tents and camping. Cubs helped pitch the tents, lit fires and cooked their own lunch, learned about different pioneering skills and finally how to break camp and pack things up. As a bonus, some of the Cubs even helped clean the hut... who knew sweeping the floors & vacuuming the carpet would be so



much fun! In June, the Cubs (with the rest of the group) attended the District Camp at Tolmers Campsite, which all enjoyed even with the rain that fell when it was time for the big campfire! There was also a guided hike around Stanmore Country Park (with thanks to the volunteer wardens!) After the summer break, it was a busy October with a team of Cubs taking part in the district swimming competition, where a number of them placed in the medals, and the district wide Diwali festival. The calendar year ending with the traditional Christmas celebration at St. Anselm's Church in Stanmore.

In amongst the events, we shouldn't forget progress made on badges including: Local Knowledge, Knots, Air Activity, Money Skills, Map Skills, Fire Safety, Scientist, DIY and the Cubs Challenge Awards. We also thank the scout leaders who ran the air rifle target shooting nights during the year!



If this sounds like fun, then why not come along and help with the running of the group? Whether it is every week, once per year or somewhere in between, there will always be something you can help with, learn from and have a bit of fun along the way! We extend our thanks to the leaders, young leaders, exec members and parents who have helped with the Cubs program this year.

Yours in Scouting

Bhrat Patel (CSL), Ramesh B Dave (ACSL), Alkesh Shah (ACSL)

Itisha Patel (Section Assistant), Ishaan Mehta (Young Leader/Section Assistant)

Young Leaders: Iris Cliquet, Saahil Patel, David Stefan Toma, Shivam Vora, Joshua Litherland

SCOUT TROOP

DUNCAN McDOWELL (SCOUT LEADER)

After we came back from our Spring break we started with a pioneering and smallholders' night. In the summer term we went shopping and bought ingredients for a meal, the following week we cooked the meal. I have to say they were all very good. We also took part in circus skills thanks to Lizzy and David. We also did some initial work on our cycling badge, some camp prep for our district camp, DIY badge and finished off with a chip shop hike, always very popular.

After our summer break we started with the now usual troupe forum where the scouts were eager to get their ideas across. During the Autumn term we continued work on our DIY badge, some map and compass work, disability awareness and archery at the DAC. We finished off with a Christmas party.

After Christmas unfortunately I was not available for this term, but I knew the team would carry on and as usual deliver a great programme. They covered nights away, hikes, pioneering, first aid and model making. Let's not forget our Feb Freezer camp, always a great camp.

I can say with some certainty that the model maker badge was the best, not only because of the content of the program but the engagement level from the scouts. I'd like to give all the praise to one of our young leaders Em for this, as it was completely his idea and he did all the work.

At this point we have 26 scouts 5 young leaders and 5 regular leaders; we have a good program for the Summer term coming up and also looking forward to Haarlem Camp.

None of this is possible without the hard work from all the Leaders and Young Leaders, also from all the Scouts every week. We look forward to a bright and exciting future.

Thanks from

Duncan McDowall (ASL), Ashley Martin (SL), Lizzy King (ASL), Prasant Patel (ASL), David Huntley (ASL)

Young Leaders: Celeste Cliquet, Kai Gohil, Thevesh Thevachandran, Krishan Karamshi

PRESENTATION OF BADGES AND AWARDS

Beaver Scout Section Awards

Beaver Scout of the Year – James McDowell

Most Improved Beaver Scout – Freya Bright

Young Leader – Neil Braganza

Chief Scout Bronze Award: James McDowell, Alexander Kelly, Freya Bright, Casey McTernan,
Siya Samani, Savindu Perera

Cub Scout Section Awards

Cub Scout of the Year: Omar Hami

Most Improved Cub Scout: Ishaan Raval

Young Leader of the Year: Iris Cliquet

Chief Scout Silver Award: Kushal Bhoja, Alex Curtis, Vihaan Prahbu

Scout Section Awards

Scout of the Year: Kian Patel

Most Improved Scout: Sean Chambers

Young Leader of the Year: Kai Gohil

Chief Scout's Gold Award: Kian Patel

CLOSING ADDRESS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairs, Group Scout Leader and all members of the Trustee Board would like to pay tribute to all of the Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders, Young Leaders, Volunteers and Parents as well as our Young People for all of the support and commitment to Scouting to bring our Group through difficult times. Our return to Scouting and work to grow our activities and sections would not have been possible without the Community spirit and dedication to the purpose and values of Scouting.

Meeting concluded.