

Trustees Annual Report

For the period 6th April 2009 to the 5th April 2010

Prepared by Matthew Donnelly

Approved by the Group Executive Committee



Reference and administration details

Charity name: 5th Knowsley (1st Kirkby) Scout Group

Other names charity known as: 1st Kirkby Scouts, 5th Knowsley Scouts

Registered Charity no.: None

Scout Association reg. no.: 46841

Charity's principal address: Kirkby Scout Centre, Parish Hall,
Old Rough Lane
Northwood
Kirkby
Merseyside
L33 0YL

Charity trustees:	Mark Bennett	Chairperson	
	Helene Wareing	Secretary	(from Feb. 2010)
	Matthew Donnelly	Acting Treasurer	
	Gary Armitage	Building Manager	(from Jan. 2010)
	Anthony Dickinson	Quartermaster	(from Jan. 2010)
	Patrick Brennan		(from Jan. 2010)
	Jessica Hargett		
	Stephen Bowden		(from Oct. 2009)
	Sharron Fidler		(from Dec. 2009)
	Christine Brennan		(from Mar. 2010)
	Jenny Wood		(from Oct. 2009)
	William Fowler		

Structure, governance and management:

The Group's governing documents are those of the 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. The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities.

During the past year the Executive Committee has begun establishing three sub-Committees:

- Building Management sub-Committee – chaired by the Building Manager;
- Quartermaster sub-Committee – chaired by the Quartermaster;
- Fundraising sub-Committee – chaired by the Assistant Group Scout Leader, Ricky Brennan.

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

- the maintenance of the Group's property and equipment;
- the raising of funds and the administration of the Group's finance;
- the insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- assisting with the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support.

Supporting bodies:

During June and July we received short-lived assistance from The Scout Association's Regional Development Service, who helped us create our first development plan and begin the process of recruiting further adult volunteers.

As of the 1st April 2010, our supporting parent body has changed from Knowsley Scout District, which covered the Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council area, to the new Altside Scout District, which covers Bootle, Netherton, Aintree, Maghull, Lydiate, Melling and Kirkby. This change offers improved opportunities for support and development in the years ahead.

Risk and Internal 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 payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Objectives and activities:

The objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities.

The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership. The Scout Group provides activities for 6-14 year olds, and aims to support the provision of activities for 14-18 year olds through the district-managed Explorer Scout provision.

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:

In the past year we have developed from running a combined Beaver, Cub and Scout meeting to running three separate sections. Our youth membership has grown from just 9 at the January 2009 membership census, to 17 by the January 2010 census, and has since risen to nearly 40. This has been made possible by the expansion of the Group Team from two to eight volunteers since October 2009. We have also recruited two Young Leaders who have provided invaluable assistance at Beaver and Cub meetings.

In addition to the expansion of our leadership team, we have also recruited several new people to our Executive Committee to take on the roles of Secretary, Building Manager and Quartermaster, spreading the administrative workload. This has allowed us to improve the operation of the Executive Committee and progress with securing the future of our premises and provision of equipment.

In addition to running our weekly meetings, we have run and participated in numerous additional activities since our last AGM:

- two Cubs attended the District Cub Scout Camp;
- a team of Scouts participated in the District Scout 5-a-side football competition;
- leaders volunteered at the Race 4 Life;
- leaders ran activities at the Kirkby Festival;
- Beavers attended and won the District Beaver Scout Quiz;
- Group Summer Camp;
- Cubs participated in the District Cub Bowling Competition;
- Beavers attended the District Beaver Film Night;
- Cubs and Scouts made a D-Day display for the Feast of the Lanterns;
- we held a Beaver Scout Christmas craft day in Kirkby;
- participated in the District Cub Scout Christmas craft day;
- Cubs and Scouts completed a long sponsored hike raising money for the group and Save the Children;
- Cubs and Scouts went climbing at Awesome Walls climbing centre;
- Cubs and Scouts went on an Easter camp;
- the Group participated in the Altside District St. George's Day activity day in April;
- Cubs and Scouts went on another camp at the start of June.

This is a total of sixteen additional activities, including a total of ten nights away, demonstrating the commitment of the leadership team and the large number of activities on offer to our youth members.

Finances Review:

Please refer to the Statement of Accounts for details of the Scout Group's financial situation for the 2009/2010 financial year.

Reserves policy:

The Group currently has no official policy on reserve funds, however we are currently operating with a net 'General Fund' balance in excess of £500, which is sufficient to ensure the continuation of our charitable activities for at least four months should there be a shortfall in income or fundraising.

Investments policy:

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies. However, we are currently seeking to re-secure ownership of a small number of shares in Lloyds Banking Group that were rediscovered during the year.

Future plans:

Our core objective for the year ahead is to secure our recent progress and success by recruiting additional volunteers to carry out the remaining vacant roles in the group, particularly in recruiting additional leaders for the Beaver Scout and Scout sections. This is a key component in increasing Beaver Scout and Scout numbers up towards our maximum of 24 per section.

Alongside the strengthening of our membership and support, we will seek to ensure the long-term safety and security of the Kirkby Scout Centre which provides the hub for all our activities. This includes securing our occupancy of the premises and applying for grants to improve the building.

Our key aim for the year ahead is to ensure we continue to develop an interesting and attractive programme across all the sections in the Scout Group, and to work with the district's Explorer Scout provision to ensure we can provide access to Explorer Scouting for the teenagers of Kirkby.

Declaration:

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Name: Mark Bennett

Name: Helene Wareing

Signature: Signed on original

Signature: Signed on original

Position: Group Chairman

Position: Group Secretary

Date: 16/06/2010