

Trustees Annual Report

For the period 6th April 2010 to the 5th April 2011

Prepared by Matthew Donnelly and Patrick Brennan

Approved by the Group Executive Committee



Reference and administration details

Charity name:	1 st Kirkby Scout Group	
Other names charity known as:	1 st Kirkby Scouts	
Previously known as:	5 th Knowsley (1 st Kirkby) Scout Group, 5 th 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 (until May 2011)
	Joanne Armitage	Treasurer
	Matthew Donnelly	Group Scout Leader
	Patrick Brennan	Assistant Group Scout Leader
	Gary Armitage	Building Manager (until March 2011)
	George Murphy	Building Manager (from March 2011)
	Anthony Dickinson	Quartermaster
	Alison Mansfield	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader (from April 2011)
	Stephen Bowden	Cub Scout Leader (until April 2011)
	Clare Forshaw	Acting Cub Scout Leader (from April 2011)
	Ray McLellan	Acting Scout Leader (from April 2011)
	Jacqueline Weller	
	Lee Darbyshire	
	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 had 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.

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:

As of the 1st April 2010, our supporting parent body 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 has provided us with a much improved support network, especially with regard to access to more district activities. Other forms of support are slowly emerging from Altside which will benefit the Scout Group in the future.

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 and county-managed Scout Network provisions.

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:

The past year has seen a big change in our membership. Our youth membership has grown from 17 at the January 2010 membership census, to 34 by the January 2011 census, and has since risen to over 45. We've been able to accommodate this growth through the continued expansion of our leadership team which now consists of 12 leaders who put in a lot of hard work to deliver a fantastic programme week-after-week. Our one Young Leader, Emma, has also made a fantastic contribution to the Cub Pack.

In addition to the expansion of our leadership team, we have also been trying to bed down our increasing numbers of supporters on the Executive Committee and sub-Committees. We have had a number of highly successful working days and increased levels of support from many other parents and supporters, such as with fundraising socials.

In addition to running the weekly meetings and extra activities of the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, we have run and participated in several activities as a whole group or as joint between two sections:

- the Group ran a stall at the Kirkby Festival;
- we ran a Summer camp in August for cubs and Scouts with a day visit for the Beavers;
- the Cubs and Scouts created a display on Altside District for the Feast of the Lanterns;
- a large number from our group attended the Kirkby Remembrance Sunday Parade;
- we quasi-hosted the District Carol Concert at St. Chad's church;
- we attended the St. George's Activity Day for the second year – a great day out;
- and at the time of writing we are about to attend the Altside District Gathering.

In total we provided 11 nights away across the three sections in addition to our various weekly and extra day activities. We have a dedicated team of adults that continue to provide fantastic experiences for our youth members.

Beaver Scout Colony

The Beaver Colony has been holding steady in size over the past year while our new leaders gain experience. Alison Mansfield joined Matt and Jess in September, and Sean Cullen came on board in April. After two and a half years as 'temporary' help, Jess will be leaving the Beaver team in July. We are looking for another Assistant Beaver Scout Leader to join the team in the next few months so that Matt can stand down by the end of 2011.

During our weekly meetings the Beavers have worked their way towards various badges, including a few achieving their Chief Scout's Bronze Award. We've also paid a visit to St. Chad's visit, had a trip out bowling, gone on a night-time trail through Millbrook Park, visited the 4th Bootle Beaver Scouts, enjoyed the District Beaver Pantomime watching Aladdin, had a visit from Sue Leigh's Doberman

Reuben as part of the Animal Friend badge, attended the Beaver Craft Day with 140 other Beavers and put on a fantastic music performance for parents.

Our biggest achievement was to provide the group's first ever Beaver Scout Sleepover in the Kirkby Scout Centre followed by a trip to Tawd Vale Scout Camp to visit the Cubs at camp: a fantastic achievement for us!

Cub Scout Pack

The Cub Pack has grown very strong over the past year and is now at its capacity. Ste Bowden has changed role, and now Clare Forshaw is Acting Cub Scout Leader. Chris Brennan has been the rock of the Cub Pack allowing it to grow and thrive for the whole of the past year. Ste Ockleshaw has also joined the Cub Team this year as an Assistant CSL.

The Cub Pack has been involved with the various group activities as well as enjoying the *first* half of the Aladdin pantomime in Southport. The Pack had its first independent camp at Easter since it reopened in 2007, with the Beavers visiting on the Saturday: a fantastic experience for both sections!

Scout Troop

Scout numbers have stabilised at just above a dozen whilst the leadership team beds in. Jenny Wood left early in last year, although we have gained Tony Dickinson and Mike Porter. Ray McLellan took over as Acting Scout Leader from Ricky in April 2011.

In addition to group events, the Scout Troop has participated in a district canoeing competition, pumpkin-chucking challenge, and with great pride a team of 4 won the District Emergency Day (1st Aid) in March, gaining the Emergency Aid Stage 3 badge in the process.

In April we entered 2 teams in the Merseyside *Great Escape*: this is the first time we have entered this competition since the group was reformed, and while we did not finish very high it was a great experience for the Scouts who mixed with another Troop.

At this moment we are working towards several badges: Global, Creative, Environment, Promise, fitness and Athletic.

Building Management sub-Committee

Since the last AGM we have worked very hard in improving the building by doing a host of jobs, largely thanks to a few grants (described in the statement of accounts). This has included new secure front doors, a security alarm system, sanding and polishing of the main hall floor along with various other jobs that have improved the look and usability of the main hall.

These are the jobs which stand out but a lot of painting and general maintenance has also been done (in large thanks to Matt getting up at 5 a.m. and coming to do work on the hut!).

In the very near future we will be getting a new fence and gates on the side of the building and completing various other improvements works over the summer holidays. We are looking for people to help complete these tasks and also to join the building management team to continue to maintain and approve the building over the coming year.

In addition to this we have plans to redevelop the rear of the Kirkby Scout Centre (toilets/kitchen/storage areas) including a possible new extension within the next 18 months.

Equipment sub-Committee

We have purchased new tents, cooler boxes, camp tables and chairs this year. We have money available to buy more equipment, but we are currently waiting upon improvements to the building to provide more storage before we proceed in further purchases. The equipment we are looking to purchase will allow the Cubs and Scouts to camp in Sixes and Patrols while at camp.

Social and Fundraising sub-Committee

Since the last AGM we have held a number of events including a Halloween Night, Breakfast with Santa and a Liverpool Quiz Night. While these events have not been as well attended as hoped, they were all successful and enjoyable events. The money raised by these events goes directly towards reducing the cost of camps and other activities, so more support for these events is for the direct benefit of our youth members.

Finances Review:

Please refer to the Statement of Accounts for details of the Scout Group's financial situation for the 2010/2011 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 previous year – this process is nearly complete.

Future plans:

Our core objective for the year ahead is to build on the success and increased stability gained over the last year. We still have a couple of key positions to fill to enable us to fill out the volunteer team, both on the leadership side and the supporter side. We hope to have full sections by our AGM in 2012.

We aim to finally secure a lease for the Kirkby Scout Centre which provides the hub for all our activities, and which will provide secure storage for an improved and expanded set of equipment.

Above all, we aim to provide a safe but adventurous programme for all our young people, right from the youngest Beaver to the oldest Scout and beyond. We will continue to seek the support of parents and other supporters and continue to build up a community spirit for us all.

Declaration:

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

Name: Matthew Donnelly

Name: Patrick Brennan

Signature: Signed on original

Signature: Signed on original

Position: Group Scout Leader

Position: Assistant Group Scout Leader

Date: 13/06/2011