

Trustees Annual Report

For the period 6th April 2011 to the 5th April 2012

Prepared by Executive Members and Edited by Matthew Donnelly
Approved by the Group Executive Committee



Reference and administration details

Charity name: 1st Kirkby Scout Group

Other names charity known as: 1st Kirkby 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

Website: www.1stkirkbyscouts.org.uk

Charity trustees:	Lee Darbsyhire	Chairperson
	John Wotherspoon	Secretary
	Nick Rogan	Treasurer
	Matthew Donnelly	Group Scout Leader
	Patrick Brennan	Assistant Group Scout Leader/ Quartermaster
	George Murphy	Building Manager
	Michelle Tootle	Fundraising Co-ordinator (until October 2011)
	Alison Mansfield	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
	Clare Forshaw	Cub Scout Leader
	Ray McLellan	Acting Scout Leader (until December 2011)
	Ian McGee	Acting Scout Leader (from December 2011)
	Jacqueline Weller	Group Executive Member
	Brad den Riddder	Group Executive Member (until December 2011)
	Mark Bennett	Group Executive Member (until September 2011)

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 Fundraising Co-ordinator.

The 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:

Our immediate supporting parent body is Altside Scout District, which covers Bootle, Netherton, Aintree, Maghull, Lydiate, Melling and Kirkby. We have benefitted from and contributed significantly to district-wide activities which have served to enhance our programme of activities over the course of the past year.

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 Purpose of Scouting 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 been in some ways turbulent for us. We have made excellent progress in developing our leadership team, although this has been made difficult by changing work commitments, emigrations and other factors. However we currently have:

- a Group Scout Leader (Matt), who is also the Acting Beaver Scout Leader;
- an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader (Alison);
- a Cub Scout Leader (Clare) and two Assistant Cub Scout Leaders (Chris and Ricky), plus a Young Leader (Emma);
- a Scout Leader (Ian) and two Assistant Scout Leaders (Terry and Tony), also supported by Ray.

We also have some leaders due to return in the near future and a couple of potential new volunteers.

Most excitingly, we have taken steps to support the launch on a new Explorer Scout Unit in Kirkby. The ESU and its initial 5 Explorers are due to start meeting in late May/early June led by Mark Bishop and Gus Ingoglia.

In addition to the leadership team, we have a full executive committee and a variety of other people undertaking supporting roles with responsibility for maintaining the building, fundraising and carrying out administrative tasks (like editing the news sheet).

In the last 12 months our numbers in Cubs and Scouts have risen to the point that both sections are either at or nearing capacity. We are in fact currently looking at setting up a second Cub Pack if we can recruit enough leaders to do so. Unfortunately in Beavers there has been a drop in numbers due to a shortage of leaders.

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:

- the Group attended and made a big contribution to the success of the Altside District Gathering in June 2011;
- the Group ran a stall at the Kirkby Festival in July 2011;
- we attended the St. George's Activity Day for the third year in April 2012;
- Group 1st Aid course;
- the Group ran a Halloween Party;
- a large number from our group attended the Kirkby Remembrance Sunday Parade;
- the Group ran a Brunch with Santa in December.

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 decreased in size over the last year. This is due to Beavers moving on up to Cubs and having a freeze on promotional recruitment. Towards the end of 2011 our new Beaver Scout Leader-to-be Brad den Ridder had to move back to Australia. So we are looking for new Assistant Beaver Scout leaders and an eventual Beaver Scout Leader as Matt is stepping down as Acting BSL in July 2012.

As a part of our meetings the Beavers have achieved a various amount of badges, with a few achieving the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. As part of our programme the Beavers have also enjoyed going on several treasure hunts, holding a 'bring a friend' night which resulted in having a record 22 children in attendance, attending the District Christmas pantomime and staging a musical performance night for parents to enjoy.

We have also provided a further two sleepovers for the Beavers over the past year, a night spent bell boating at Waterside Lodge, and a day visit to the Altside District Gathering, all of which the Beavers enjoyed immensely. Overall it has been an excellent year for the Beaver Colony programme.

Cub Scout Pack

The Cub Pack continues to be a solid section and is currently still at its capacity of which we're very proud of. Clare Forshaw continues to be Acting Cub Scout leader with great help from both assistants Christine and Ricky Brennan, with a fantastic young dedicated leader Emma Brennan.

The Cub Pack have enjoyed a good few trips both educational and fun in the past year consisting of the World Museum, Ten Pin Bowling and most recently the "Crocky Trail". The Pack held an indoor camp at the 1st Sefton East Scout Group HQ, in Maghull, where the pack completed a hike, various crafts, enjoyed a late night film - popcorn included - and practised archery.

The children have gained or will have gained around 10 badges in the last two terms alone including Fitness Challenge, Global Challenge, Personal Safety, Road safety, Artists Badge, Community Challenge, Astronomers Badge, Collectors Badge to mention a few.

We currently have a District Cub Camp planned for June and are looking forward to our first family camp scheduled for July.

Scout Troop

Scout numbers have recently risen to over 15 whilst the Scout leadership team has solidified with Ian McGee taking over as Acting Scout Leader, and being assisted by Tony Dickinson and our newest leader, Terry Smith.

The Troop ran its own back-to-basics camp in September at Tawd Vale, which was the first Scout Troop only independent camp that we have run since the group was re-established in 2007.

In April the Troop entered 2 teams in the Merseyside *Great Escape* and camped alongside the 12th Sefton East Scout Troop. Whilst we didn't win the competition, the Scouts have a great time competing against 73 other teams!

The latest major event the Troop took part in was the District Scout Survival Camp which saw the Scouts 'practicing' their first aid skills, cooking rabbits and getting rather wet and muddy!

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 obtained in the previous financial year. We have continued to make improvements to the building, including a new front window, 8 new bike stands, refitted toilets and new pipe work and improved arrangements for equipment storage. We have a new fence with gates and path at the side of the building to improve the fire escape and provide trailer access. This has been made possible by reaching an agreement for access with the Kirkby Christian Fellowship for which we are grateful.

There are number of additional jobs to be done and we hope to grow our building maintenance team to get on top of these jobs, whilst we also aim to redevelop the rear of the Kirkby Scout Centre in the coming year. Finally, we have continued to pursue solidifying our position with regard to the legal status of the Kirkby Scout Centre, and recent progress means this may soon be resolved.

Equipment sub-Committee

We have been successful in obtaining an 'Awards for All' grant and are about to purchase a host of camping equipment which will enhance our ability to provide residential activities, ranging from family camps to lightweight hike camps. We are also due to purchase two trailers as part of this grant which will eliminate our reliance on other Scout Groups for our equipment transport needs. Additionally, a new high security storage container will provide extra storage facilities at the back of the Kirkby Scout Centre.

Social and Fundraising sub-Committee

Since the last AGM we have held a number of events including a Halloween Night and Breakfast with Santa. These events were well attended and proved to be both financially successful as well as socially enjoyable. The money raised by these events goes directly towards reducing the cost of camps and other activities, so increasing the support for these events in the future will be of direct benefit to our youth members.

Finances Review:

Please refer to the Statement of Accounts for details of the Scout Group's financial situation for the 2011/2012 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 do hold a small number of historical shares in Lloyds Banking Group.

Future plans:

Our core objective for the year ahead is to continue to build on the progress we have made in the last 4 years in order to increase our stability and grow to meet the needs of the local community. We are still seeking to fill the key position of Beaver Scout Leader whilst also seeking to grow our wider volunteer base, both on the leadership side and the supporter side.

Reinvigorating our Beaver Scout Colony and potentially expanding to the operation of second sections to meet growing demand are all major focuses of our development plans. However our Group Scout Leader, Matt Donnelly, will be stepping back from the role of Acting Beaver Scout Leader at the end of July due to time pressures, so it is essential we find a new Beaver Scout Leader or the colony is at risk of closure.

It is with great delight that the Scout Group is supporting the re-establishment of an Explorer Scout Unit in Kirkby which is due to start meeting in late May/ early June. Ensuring this new ESU thrives is an important part of making sure we can provide activities from 6 through to 18 years.

After many meetings with the Kirkby Parochial Church Council, we hope to finally secure a formal lease in mid-2012 for the Kirkby Scout Centre, which provides the hub for all our activities. Once this is in place, we can then complete our plans for improving the Kirkby Scout Centre.

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: Lee Darbyshire

Signature: Signed on original

Signature: Signed on original

Position: Group Scout Leader

Position: Group Chairman

Date: 10/06/2012