



WF18 Areley Kings Scout Group

(18th Wyre Forest Scout Group)

Annual Report

for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023



1. Reference and Administration Details

Group Name:	Areley Kings Scout Group
Charity Number:	Not Registered outright, comes under Scout Association no. (306102)
Principal Address:	17 Pochard Close, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 4UB
Trustees:	All members of the executive committee are considered Trustees of the group

The Executive Committee Membership:

Ex Officio Members:

Ex-officio members have a role on the Committee due to their role in Scouting

Andrew Rawlinson	(Group Scout Leader)
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Elected members:

Elected members stand for election at the Annual General Meeting and are elected by the Group Scout Council to take on the role

Vacancy	(Chairperson)
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Gemma Gould	(Treasurer)
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Delia Shannon	(Secretary)
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Nominated members:

Nominated members are nominated by the Group Scout Leader in partnership with the Group Chair and approved at the Annual General Meeting;

Trevor Jones	(Group Executive Member)
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James Stanley	(Group Executive Member)
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Kate Harris	(Group Executive Member)
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John Malinowski	(Group Executive Member)
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2. Introduction

Since I was invited to join Areley Kings Scout Group nearly 3 years ago, I never cease to be amazed by the commitment of the small band of volunteers that help keep this exceptional scout group running and most importantly of all, providing the young people of Areley Kings the opportunity to take part in activities that they might not be able to do if it were not for scouting.



The group has really grown again this year for the third year on the trot in terms of young members (we currently the largest we have been for 10 years) which is testimony to the huge range of activities being held for the beavers cubs and scouts as well as our exceptionally successful group camp held in June 2022 which will be repeated again in June 2023. I am however very grateful to the uniformed leaders of the group, who stepped in during the August term when I was taken ill (Initially thought to be a heart scare but ultimately it turned out to be stress and anxiety) and had to step away from scouting for a few months whilst I recovered. So many of the team at Areley kings operate several positions for the group with many leaders volunteering to run more than one section. My health scare has reiterated to me that this is not sustainable in the long term.

This leads me on to the biggest risk that the group faces in the next twelve months, adult support. Normally, this introduction would be written by the Chairperson of our Executive Committee but currently like many roles in the group, we do not have one and so as the Group Scout Leader, I had agreed to step into this position as an interim measure for a second year but can no longer continue in this position as well as group scout leader and scout section leader and as you read through this report it will become clear to you that we are desperately in need of help from parents, family and friends as well as those willing to help out in the local community. I cannot stress enough that without people willing to help, the group would not exist and so many of our young people would miss out on the wonderful experiences they gain through being part of the scouting movement. So, if anyone can help, even for an hour a month in the background, then please take time to see either the section leader or myself as The Group Scout Leader.

Andrew Rawlinson

Andrew Rawlinson
Interim Chair of the Executive Committee
May 2023

3. Structure, Governance and Management

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.

Constitution

The group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all scouts

Trustee Selection

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

Group Executive Committee

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.

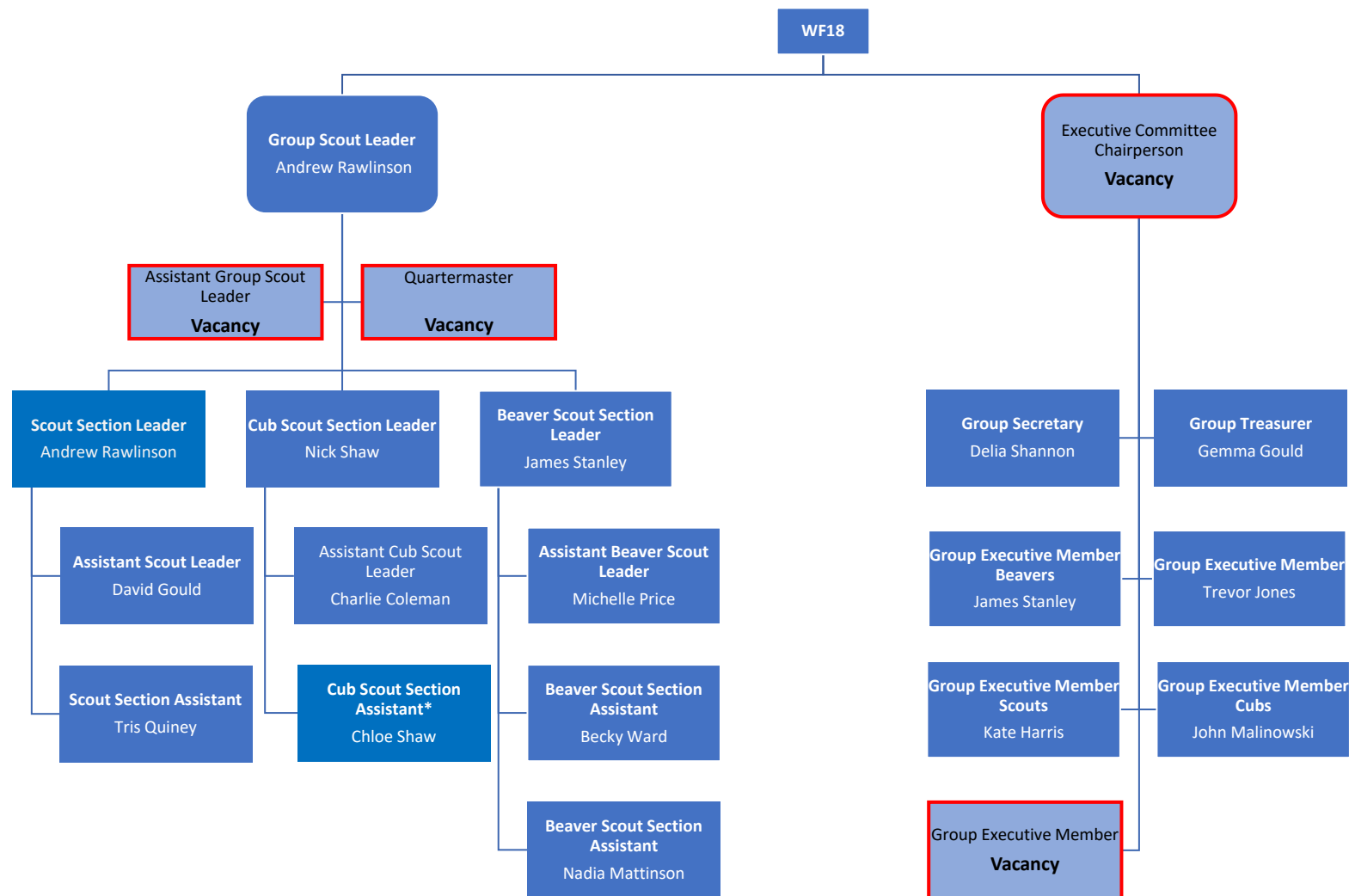
This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leader, and a representative parent from each section of the Group. Additionally, some members are co-opted onto the Committee from time to time. The Committee meets at least once every school term.

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 Group property and equipment;
- 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 Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

WF18 Group Structure April 2022 to March 2023



4. Risk and Internal Control

General

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

The Group Executive Committee 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:

Damage to property and equipment.

The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighboring organisations such as the District Rhydd Activity Centre and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before and during activities.

Reduced income from fund raising.

The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee 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 totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario this would result in the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members.

The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 15. If there were a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario this would result in the complete closure of the Group.

5. Objects and Activities

The Purpose of Scouting

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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 Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

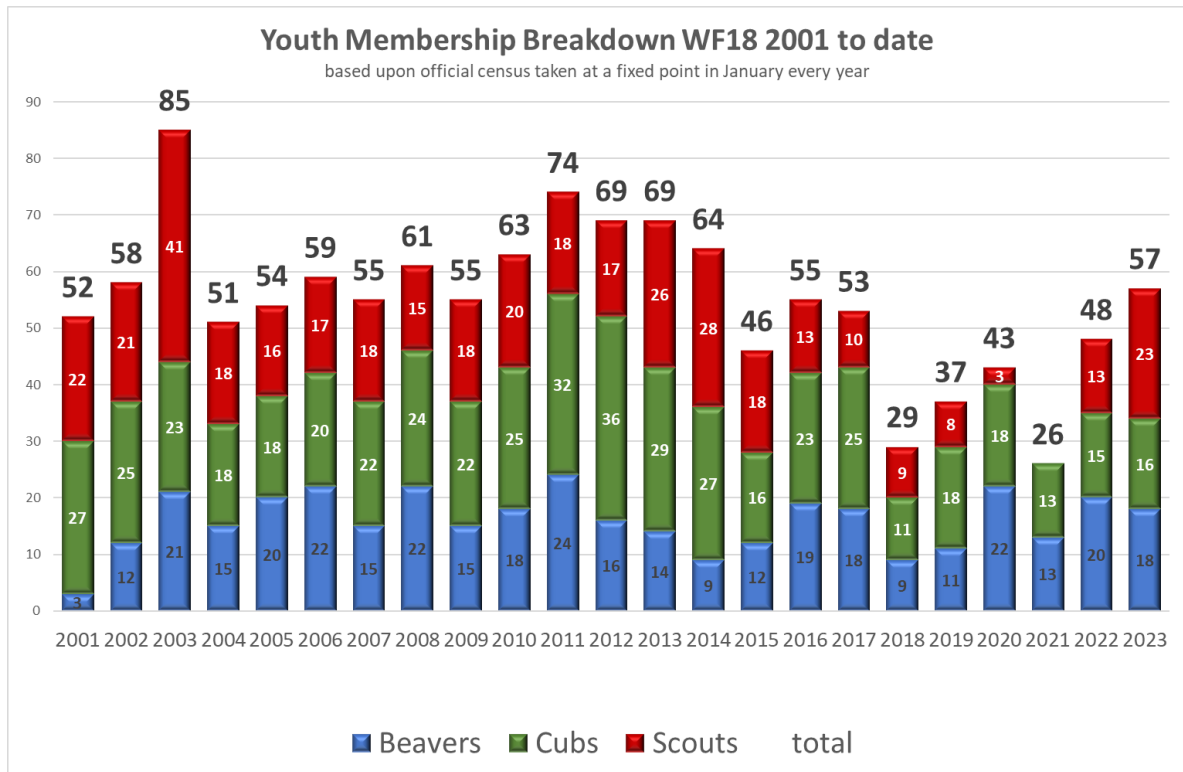
- **Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- **Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Cooperation** - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

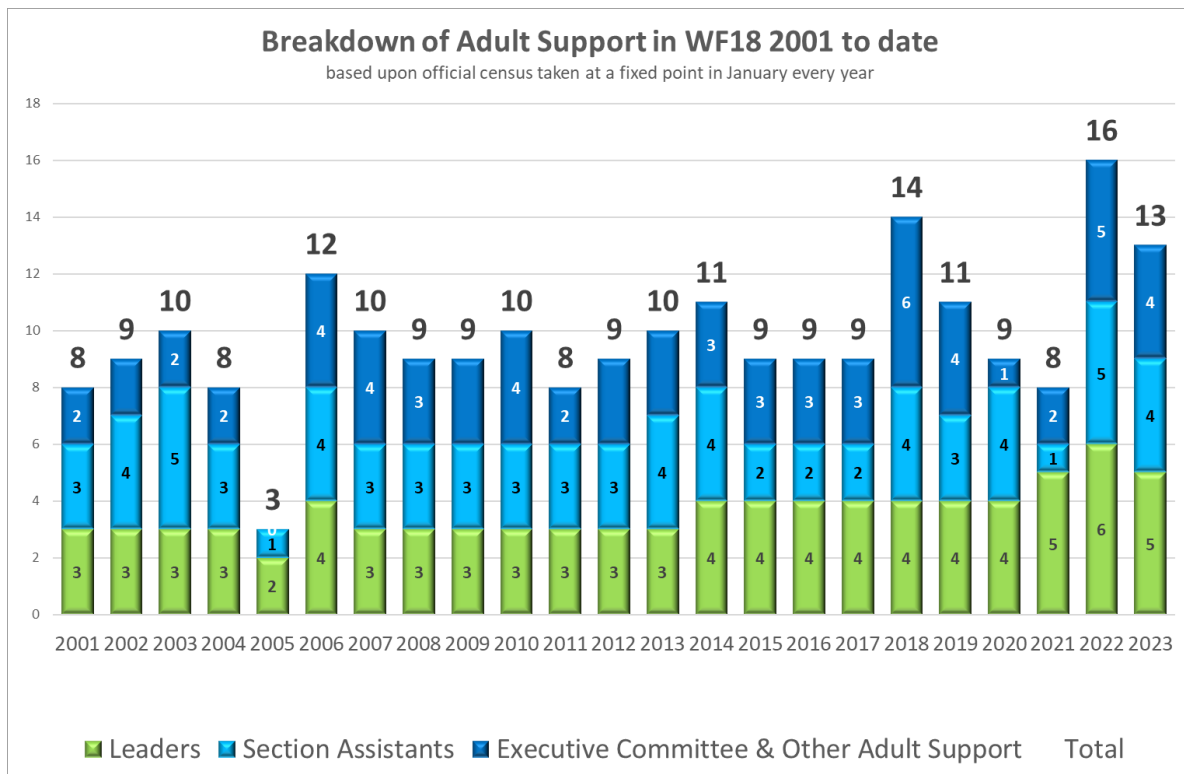
Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- 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; and
- Make and live by their Promise

6. Membership



7. Adult Support.



Our Adult support is struggling, and we are still currently running the group with a lot of volunteers having to double up roles to keep sections going. It would be fair to say that volunteers are desperately needed across all support areas but particularly in non-uniformed positions supporting the administration of the group.

We are pleased to say that for September 2023, Karen Blanchfield has agreed to step in to help run the cub section and work with the other cub leaders to continue building the section. This means that we will have a particularly strong leader team in all our sections (although we can always use more help)

We specifically need help in the following roles for the coming year urgently:

- Executive Committee Members & Trustees
- Occasional Helpers (for camps and the odd section meeting)

There are many reasons for people choosing to help Areley Kings Scout Group including:

- It's fun!
- Helping the local community
- Using existing talents
- Encouraging the next generation
- Gaining new skills
- Enhancing career prospects
- Meeting new and interesting people

If anyone is interested in helping out or would like to know more about the positions we have available then please contact **Andrew Rawlinson** (Group Scout Leader) email: groupscoutleader@WF18.org.uk Tel: 01562 745561

8. Overview of Activities 2021/22

Group Scout Leaders Review

As mentioned previously, I am now into my third year as Group Scout Leader, but have been buoyed by the wide variety of activities that have been offered to the young people of the group over the last twelve months culminating in running our second water based camp, "Just Add More Water" a group camp for all sections which will be held in June 2023

The leaders have produced a varied weekly programme and activities across the Beaver and Cub sections producing many badges and awards. I have had the pleasure of attending both Beaver and Cub meetings, so I know first-hand the hard work that the leaders put into the planning and running of their sections.



I am now in my 10th full year as a Group Scout Leader having helped run a group in Kidderminster as GSL previously and I am sure will continue to find the role of GSL for WF18 extremely rewarding. However, the success of the group is all down to all the leaders, assistants, helpers and of course the Executive Committee.

The following twelve months are going to be exciting for WF18, particularly with the continued growth of the group and as you will see our numbers are now the highest they have been for 10 years which is testament to the commitment of everyone involved.

As a group, we will continue to improve, we continue to replace and purchase new equipment that we so vitally needed to provide the young members with a varied range of activities. This is only possible by the fund-raising activities that we do and so I would urge everyone to get behind any events that help raise money for the group. But as well as equipment, our fund raising allows us to offer camps and events and greatly reduced prices.

Finally, and most importantly, we will ensure that the members of WF18 will continue to enjoy their time in scouting and get as much out of it as they possibly can.

Andrew Rawlinson
WF18 Group Scout Leader.
July 2023

The Areley Kings Beaver Section – James Stanley (Beaver Scout Leader)

The Beavers section has gone from strength to strength over the year with an increase in numbers for the third year. We have enjoyed a range of activities from fire safety and s'mores, the experiment badge, den building in the Wyre Forest, green cross code and water safety linked in to a walk through Stourport around the basins followed by chips in the park. Other activities have included bird feeders, armpit fudge and the very popular pancake night!

None of this would be possible without the fantastic team supporting me which allows us to give the young people a chance to benefit from what Scouting has to offer. I would like to personally thank Michelle, Rebecca and Nadia for their help and support although any extra help is always welcomed to allow us to increase the numbers we operate at and activities we offer.

James

The Areley Kings Cub Section – Nick Shaw (Cub Scout Leader)

It has been an interesting year and great to get back into the scouting activities we all know and love. The year started with some badge work at the hut, Cubs loved the Chef badge, DIY and cooking over fires. We had seven cubs completing their Silver award this term with another couple not far away from finishing.

We have spent quite a few nights out at Hartlebury Common, Night walks at Shrawley Woods, den building and fire lighting at Rhydd and we also had a few party nights on the way. For end of term at Christmas we had a film night at the hut and took the Cubs ice skating before planning the new term.

This next year will see me take more of a back seat in running the section with Karten Blanchfield joining, however I am sure under Karen's guidance we will run some existing adventures for the section and continue to grow.

The Areley Kings Scout Section



This has been a fantastic year for the Areley Kings Scout section, having been relaunched at the start of the financial year in April 2022. The section has grown to now having over 20 members and is expected to be running at around 24 members by Christmas 2023 with the influx of more cubs due to move up to scouts.

As we moved into our second year (since reforming in 2021, I started to run events aimed at some of the older scouts that will further drive the scouts to gaining more leadership skills but most of all having fun.

We have managed to run a full year of camps in the last twelve months starting with Rhydd in the Spring of 2022, the water camp of course in June followed by a great winter camp in early 2023 at Kinver based around a spy theme. The following year will see further camps introduced including a camp for our more experienced scouts in the Lake District.



The next twelve months are looking bright for the section with the Just Add Water Camp already run in June 2023 and more camps and activities being planned for the remainder of the year into 2024,



9. Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. It is proposed by the Interim Group Executive Chairperson that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 3 years running costs, circa £6,000 in reserve.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is small and as a consequence 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 to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks and potentially The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service (although to date we have not used this facility).

WF18 Areley Kings Scout Group

Trustee Report for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

ARELEY KINGS SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNTS ***1st March 2022 to 31st March 2023***

TSB Bank account as at 31/03/2022 -£19,031.96

Income

Subs, Activities & Camps	-£9,074.68
Pledge Plod	-£999.00
Donations	-£1,650.00
Wyre Forest Lottery	-£89.00
Other - Training Refunds	-£195.00
Bank Interest	-£4.87
Total Income	-£12,012.55

Expenditure

Leader Expenses	£3,285.66
OSM Expenses	£1,776.08
Outstanding OSM Credit	£2,239.10
Electricity	£1,206.26
Water	£139.67
Giff Gaff	£120.00
OSM Fees	£20.02
Wyre Forest Scout District Levy	£270.75
Wyre Forest Scouts HQ & County Fees	£2,772.40
Camps & Activities	£3,327.15
Premises	£525.75
Unity Insurance	£1,023.18
Rhydd Fees	£396.50
Total Expenditure	£17,102.52

Balance as at 31/03/23 -£13,941.99

Lloyds Bank account as at 31/03/2023 -£3,937.12

Lloyds Savings Account as at 31/03/2023 -£10,004.87

Total in Bank as at 31/03/23 -£13,941.99

Expenditure Detail

Leader Expenses April 22 - March 23

Beavers Weekly expenses	£568.08
Cub Weekly Expenses	£461.23
Scout Weekly Expenses	£1,132.15
Misc	£269.27
Badges	£460.16
Neckers	£99.99
Group Camp 22	£805.30
Spring Camp 22	£355.76
March 23 Camp	£349.92
Cubs Day Camp	£25.23
Camping Equipment	£300.08
Training	£195.00
Maintenance	£39.57
Unspent OSM	<u>£2,239.10</u>
	<u>£7,300.84</u>

Expenses	£7,300.84
Outstanding OSM Credit	<u>-£2,239.10</u>
Total Expenses	<u>£5,061.74</u>

OSM Card Rec April 22 - March 23

Andrew Rawlinson

	DR	CR	Balance
26/08/2022		-10.00	-10.00
06/01/2023		-200.00	-210.00
06/01/2023	195.00		-15.00
14/01/2023	10.00		-5.00
16/01/2023		-500.00	-505.00
16/01/2023	348.20		-156.80
18/01/2023	10.00		-146.80
21/01/2023	61.83		-84.97
02/02/2023	21.63		-63.34
05/02/2023	34.99		-28.35
17/02/2023		-499.00	-527.35
25/02/2023	166.23		-361.12
27/02/2023	50.55		-310.57
27/02/2023		-2605.18	-2915.75
28/02/2023	99.48		-2816.27
02/03/2023	7.20		-2809.07
04/03/2023	93.50		-2715.57
05/03/2023	26.32		-2689.25
06/03/2023	240.60		-2448.65
08/03/2023	54.06		-2394.59
09/03/2023	322.97		-2071.62
11/03/2023	23.54		-2048.08
31/03/2023			-2048.08

James Stanley

	DR	CR	Balance
23/01/2023		-201	-201
10/03/2023	9.98		-191.02
31/03/2023			-191.02

Utilities April 22-March 23

Water		
26/04/2022	14/02/22-24/04/22	£26.88
13/08/2022	24/04/22-24/07/22	£35.53
26/08/2022	24/07/22-24/08/22	£11.14
27/09/2022	24/08/22-24/09/22	£11.14
26/10/2022	24/09/22-24/10/22	£10.78
26/11/2022	24/10/22-24/11/22	£11.14
27/12/2022	24/11/22-24/12/22	£10.78
26/01/2023	24/01/22-24/01/23	£11.14
26/02/2023	24/01/23-24/02/23	£11.14
		<u>£139.67</u>

Electricity		
05/04/2022	01/01/22-03/04/22	£384.52
06/07/2022	04/04/22-30/06/22	£224.56
06/10/2022	01/07/22-30/09/22	£480.43
31/12/2022	01/10/22-31/12/22	£116.75
		<u>£1,206.26</u>

Total Utilities	£1,345.93
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10. Declaration

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

Signature

Andrew Rawlinson

Full Name: Andrew Rawlinson

Position: Interim Exec Chair & Trustee

Date: 30th June 2023