



WF18 Areley Kings Scout Group

(18th Wyre Forest Scout Group)

Annual Report

for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022



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 2 years ago, I continue to be impressed 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 seen a lot of changes in the last twelve months with the scout section being resurrected last Easter and new executive committee set up to ensure the continued safe scouting activities for the young people of Areley Kings. Of course, none of this would be possible without the ongoing support of the leaders and adult support of the group, many of whom, if not nearly all are parents of the young members of the group and to that end we are eternally grateful. IT is also worth taking the time at this point to thank the support that our outgoing Treasurer, Nicki Shaw has given the group for the last 8 years and as we welcome a new era of the exec committee, I am sure Nicki's help will be missed.

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 have agreed to step into this position as an interim measure for the second year 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 2021

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.

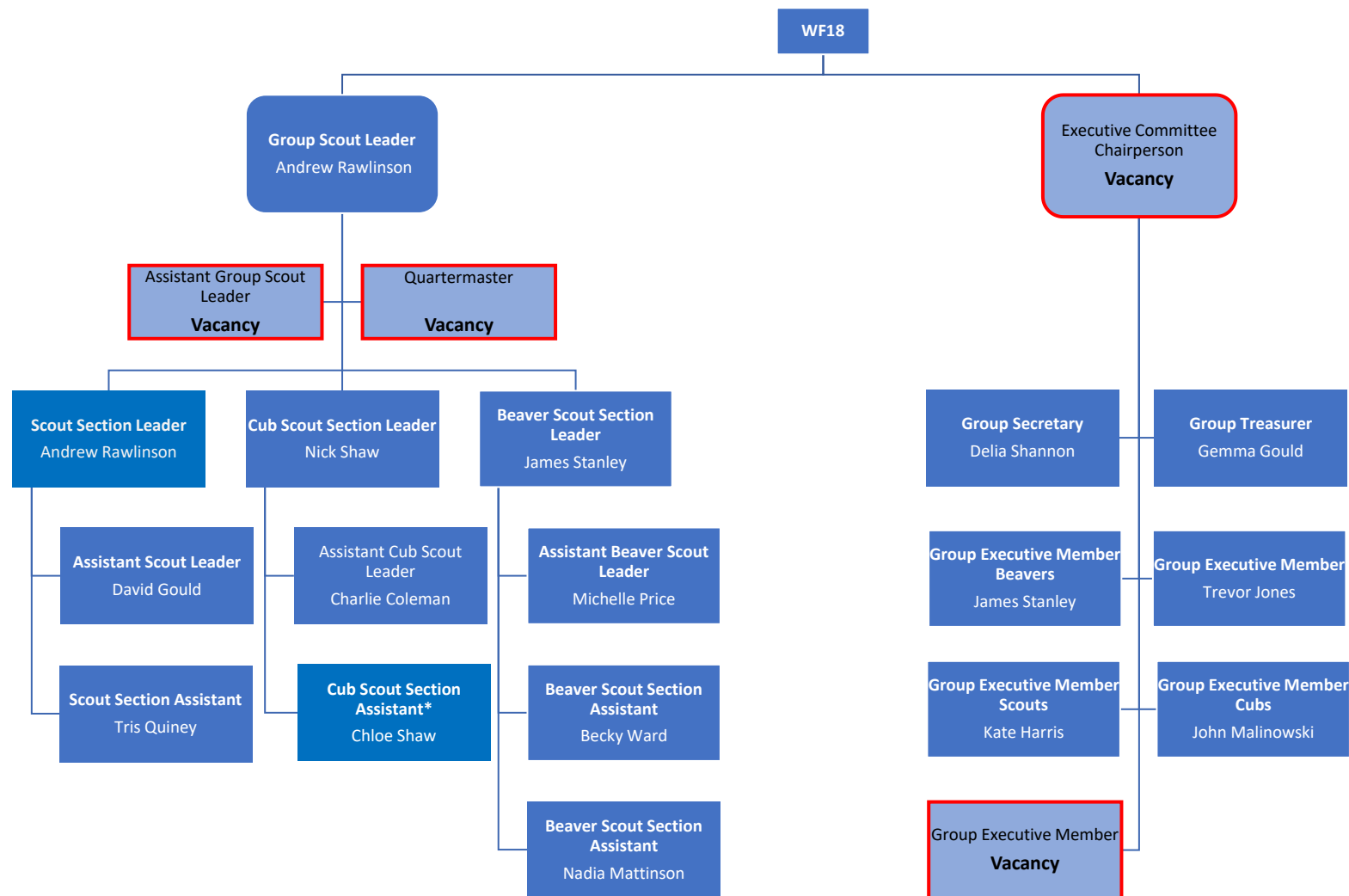
This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

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 2021 to 2022



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:

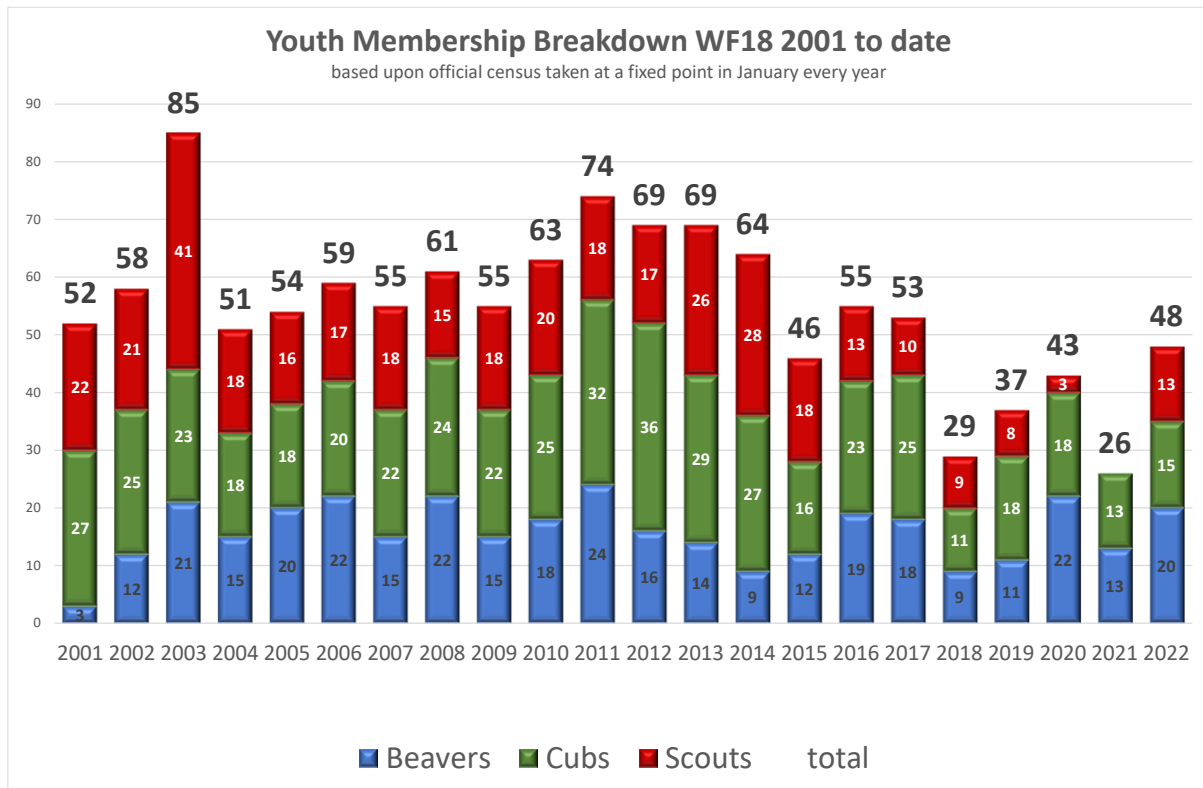
- **Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- **Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Cooperation** - We make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

The Scout Method

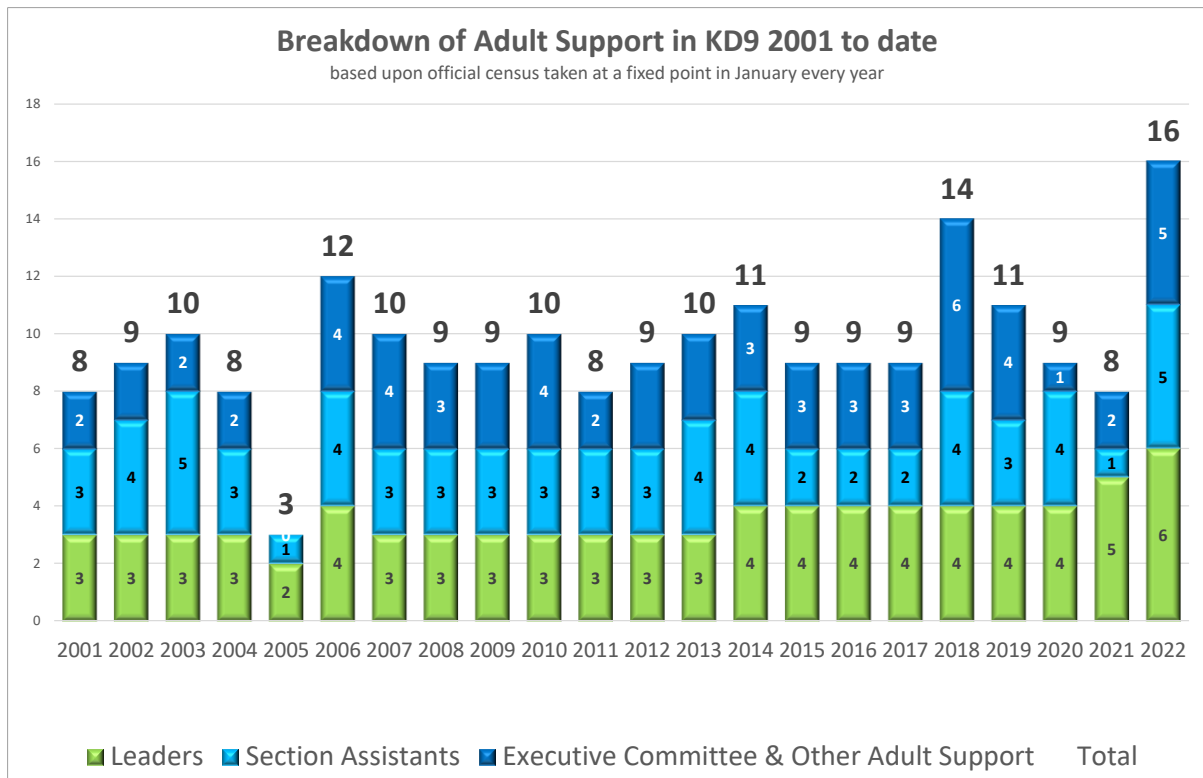
Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- 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 sections particularly in uniformed roles.

This need is particularly urgent as the current cub leader Nick Shaw is stepping back as cub section leader after the summer term 2022 and without a replacement, the cub section and therefore the whole group is at risk of closing.

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

- Scout, Cub and Beaver Leaders
- 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 2020/21

Group Scout Leaders Review

As mentioned previously, I am now into my second 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 a group camp for all sections which will be held in June 2022

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 9th full year as a Group Scout Leader having helped run a group in Kidderminster 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 since 2017 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 2018

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

Despite the difficult circumstances of the year between April 2020 and March 2021, when WF18 Beavers did manage to meet we managed to fill it with fun!

Between April and early September, due to many different factors, we did not operate a Zoom programme for the section. Instead, we opted to send a badgework pack home and many of our Beavers earned multiple badges through lockdown, including activity and staged badges like hobbies, photographer, and cyclist badge to name but a few.

Our Covid Policy was approved before the Scout Association (TSA) confirmed that we could return to face-to-face scouting. So, when TSA and the Government rules allowed, we were straight back together!

Our first meeting back was a walk on Hartlebury Common aimed at a re-establish friendships, and it was fantastic to see that it was like they had never been away. They just wanted to tell us about their lockdown. Non-stop talking for 1 1/4hrs!!

We helped the Pickup Artists do a litter picking session on Burlish Top, had an outdoor games relay/team building evening, and we spent several evenings at Bells Farm Shop doing 'Farm to Fork' activities doing fruit and vegetable tasting and linking this into the cook activity badge, strawberry runner planting and picking and drawing on pumpkins.

The darker evenings did not stop us though and we did glow stick figures, remembrance activities and tealight smores where the beavers also learn to light candles.

Lockdown Part 2 in January 2021 stopped Scouting activities until March but since its resumption we have been back to it with enthusiasm and look forward to all the activities we can do and the badges we can earn!!

I could not do it without the wonderful help and support (and watchful eyes) of Michelle and Liz (and more recently) David. Their commitment and dedication is fantastic and I could not do it without them. Thank you all. I would add though that I am always looking for extra help though, so if anyone can spare 1 1/2hrs a week and have some fun, please let me know!

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

As all we have had a very difficult year 2020/ 2021. The cubs section closed during lockdown last year and we chose not to offer Zoom meetings as I did not have the spare time to plan, facilitate, an adequate programme. With the easing of lockdown and with adequate Covid precautions we started back at cubs in September. We were operating a reduced number as a lot of the Cubs were now of the age to move to Scouts. I had to let around seven Cubs move out of the section but with no viable Scout section to attend only a few remained in Scouting in the district. From September I was running with fifteen cubs which was just enough to cope with the additional restrictions at the hut. We completed some badge work, had a few parties even completed our blackwood's cooking badge. We have been out and about, tracking on the common and more recently completing their road safety badge (*excuse for chips and a play on the park*) and been for a 5k bike ride.

From the return in March I have sent around eight cubs up to scouts and taken on four new starters from St Michaels group in Stourport and have had quite an influx from the beaver section so we are currently running with eleven Cubs.

I have a small but a great Cub leader team. Charlie and James support me as adult leaders with Chloe and Caitlyn assisting as young leaders, could not do it without them. I will be limiting the Cubs section to 16 kids as I am governed by the number of leaders I have at this time.

It's been great to have the kids back and looking forward to things to come.

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 2021. The section has grown to now having 14 members and is expected



to be running at around 24 members by Christmas 2022 with the in flux of cubs due to move up to scouts.

The section is still considered quite young and so the activities we have run reflects that, but as we move into our second year, I am expecting to start to run events that will further drive the scouts to

gaining more leadership skills but most of all having fun.

We have managed to run a couple of camps in the first twelve months which is no mean feat given the risk of Covid during that first year with one camp held at Rhydd for the newly promoted PL's and APL's in September 2021 and a winter camp at Kinver in March 2022 for the whole section. This was coupled with other events such as a full day of

adventurous activities in July 2021 at Blackwell

Court and a day at Severn Valley Country Park, on the orienteering courses there.



The next twelve months are looking bright for the section with the Just Add Water Camp already run in June 2022 and more camps and activities being planned for the remainder of the year into 2023,

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 The 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).

Areley Kings Scout Group Treasurer Report

Income and expenditure 1.4.2021 - 31.3.2022

Income		Expenditure	
Subs, camp & trips	£ 6234.80	Badges/kneekers etc.	£ 419.74
Lottery	£ 94.50	Eon	£ 943.97
Grants	£15404.23	WaterPlus	£ 151.58
		K & D Scout Council	£2440.60
		Hut Insurance	£ 600.10
		James Stanley Expenses	£ 639.83
		Nick Shaw Expenses	£ 437.72
		Andrew Rawlinson Expenses	£1844.44
		Amazon	£3389.13
		Camps	£ 915.70
		Go Cardless OSM	£ 22.07
		Ice Skating	£ 95.00
		7 Soaps (Cubs)	£ 63.00
		Mini First Aid	£ 200.00
		Scouts Float	£ 100.00
		H&W Scout County	£ 261.20
		Gala Tents	£1447.08
		Bowling	£ 95.00
Total	£21733.53		£14066.16

Balance sheet @ 31/3/2022

Balance B/Fwd 1.4.21	£11364.59
Income	£21733.53
Less expenditure	£14066.10
Balance @ 31.3.2022	£19031.96
Bank Account @ 31.3.2022	£19031.96
Balance C/Fwd 1.4.2022	£19031.96

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 2022