



NOTICE is given of the
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
of the
1st Swindon Sea Scouts Group Council
to be held at Haydonleigh Primary School
Friday 31st January 2025 at 18:30

Dear Friends of 1st Swindon Sea Scouts,

In order to ensure the continued good governance of the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts and to comply with Charity Commission Law and the requirements of the Scout Association, the Trustees are serving notice of this year's Annual General Meeting.

We are inviting all those involved and supporting 1st Swindon to join us to support our AGM. We expect the formal business to last no more than half an hour.

We look forward to joining with you.

Best wishes,

Tristian Lowe
Chair of Trustees

Jackie Stevens
Group Scout Lead Volunteer

Charity Commission number: 305941 - www.firstswindon.co.uk

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10/11/2023
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
 - c. Note the Group's financial year
 - d. Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts Group
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
- 5. Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the Independent Examiner
- 6. Closing remarks**

Group Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2024

1st Swindon Sea Scout Group

Section A Reference and administration details

For the period	01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024
Charity Name	1 st Swindon Sea Scout Group
Charity Number	305941
Charity's principal address	50 Avonmead, Swindon, SN25 3PH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity			
	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Sanita Rai	Chairperson	
2	Sarune Valentaite	Treasurer	
3	Jacqueline Stevens	GSL	
4	Carl Steckerl		
5	Lucy Schofield	Finance Chair	
6	Catharine Smith		
7	Mark Crossland		
8	Noria Hussain		

Names and addresses of advisers		
Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Susan Heath	104 Avonmead, Swindon, SN25 3PS

Section B Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The Group 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
How the charity is constituted	The Group/District/Area/County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues	<p>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.</p> <p>The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 6 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees, and 2 co-opted Trustees) and meets every 2 months.</p> <p>This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.</p> <p>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 a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>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. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	1st Swindon Sea Scouts run a range of activities across the sections which are age appropriate and young people lead. These activities include visits to a range of religious environments encompassing an awareness of a variety cultures and beliefs. The young people support the local community by litter picking and running activities at local residential establishments. The scout promise is regularly reviewed and the young people are encouraged to share their experiences of fulfilling their promise. Regular camps are provided to practice skills learnt in sessions.
Public Benefit Statement	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.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	See Group Scout Lead Volunteer and Section Reports for details.
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Section E Financial review

Policy on Reserves	<p>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. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £8000.</p> <p>The Group held reserves of approximately £8000 against this at year end.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a ring-fenced building fund amount of £48,800 held which will be offset against the cost to extend our meeting place once sufficient funds have been raised.</p>
Further financial review details	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.

Section G		Declaration	
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above			
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees			
Signature(s)			
Full name(s)	Tristian	Lowe	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)	Chair		
Date	31	1	2
	0	2	5

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts Group Executive**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's/District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: SUSAN HEATH

Signature:



Qualification:

SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

Address:

104 AVONMEAD SWINDON SN25 3PS

Date:

18/5/2024

Treasurer's Report for the year to 31 March 2024

The Group remains in a good monetary position with minimum overheads and our financial focus is providing excellent Scouting opportunities to our members.

We have continued to make progress towards our building extension goal and have £49,500 ring fenced and allocated to this. We will be looking to apply for further grants in the near future to contribute more to our building fund so work can commence. If any parents would like to nominate our Group for a fundraising event or corporate donation/grant we would be most appreciative. These contributions will make a real difference and bring us closer to having a meeting place to suit our needs.

As we are a Charity, we are able to claim Gift Aid on your subs, which gives us an extra 25% income. Thank you to all who have opted in to Gift Aid via our record keeping system My.Scout. If you have not signed up and would like to, please ask your section Leader who can arrange for the link to be sent to you.

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Group Treasurer

1st Swindon Sea Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/04/2023	To	31/03/2024
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Receipts and payments

2023/24
Unrestricted funds
£

2022/23
Unrestricted funds
£

Receipts

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	10,738	12,522
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	4,414	3,872
Net membership subscriptions retained	6,325	8,650
Donations	124	828
Legacies	-	-
Gift Aid	2,007	-
Other similar income - Boat sale	-	-
Sub total	8,456	9,478
Grants		
Start up Grants	-	-
Other grants	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Fundraising (gross)		
Scout Post	2,980	1,640
Bag Packing	-	835
Badges	-	-
Activities / Events	7,521	10,709
Sub total	10,501	13,184
Investment income		
Bank interest	590	107
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Property Rent income	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	590	107

Total Gross Income	19,547	22,768
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	19,547	22,768

Receipts and payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities	11,321	13,446
Adult support and training	-	-
Badges	276	588
Rent	599	544
Premises	1,829	1,593
Premises building project	-	-
Insurance	1,198	2,920
Admin	-	-
Grants	717	14,057
Sub total	15,940	33,148
Fundraising expenses		
Activities		-
Scout Post	1,225	
Other fundraising costs		-
Sub total	1,225	-
Total Gross Expenditure	17,165	33,148
Asset and investment purchases, etc.		-
Total payments	17,165	33,148
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,382	-10,380
Cash funds last year end	64,948	75,328
Cash funds this year end	67,330	64,948

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	12,400	12,970
Bank deposit account (Events Account)	5,362	3,000
Bank savings account (ring fenced building fund)	49,569	48,979
Building society account (ringfenced building fund)	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	-	-
Total cash funds	67,331	64,949
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail		-
Quoted investments		-
Other investments - detail		-
Sub total		-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	400	400
Shop stock		
Other stock		
Land and buildings	235,479	243,515
Motor vehicles		
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	17,730	19,699
Sailing and Kayaking Equipment	10,062	11,179
Sub total	263,671	274,793
Liabilities	-	
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-

Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 8th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signature



Print Name

Tristan Lowe

Group Scout Lead Volunteer's Report



We are fortunate to have a thriving Group. With all sections consistent in numbers. We continue to provide a range of positive experiences for our members which allow them to reach their potential.

I have seen such enthusiasm and positivity from the children in the sections, they are so proud of their achievements as they should be.

We have seen more changes over the year in our trustee members and the introduction of the new digital platform, which has brought its own challenges. As was the process of changing our bank mandate which has taken a year for us to be back up and running efficiently again. Thank you for your patients with the banking issues.

I would like to thank all the leaders for continuing to support all aspects of scouting. Without leaders we could not run. I would also like to thank all parents for their support and understanding that sometimes things don't go as planned. We all have jobs and families on top of our scouting commitment, so it is lovely to see parents stepping up when we struggle.

Many of you will have noticed changes within the Wick which have been progressing since Christmas, thank you Mark Benn and Mark Crossland for all the work you have put into these changes.

I would also like to thank all the trustees who have supported the group, if you are able to give a little bit of time to support the trustees or any of the sections, please let us know, you would be welcomed with open arms.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Kelvin King and the District team for their support with the group and presenting all the top awards that our children have received.

Jackie Stevens

Group Scout Lead volunteer

ONTARIO BEAVERS

There have been many changes to the leadership team, but Ontario Beavers continues to thrive. We thank Tim Hunt for stepping in as beaver leader but unfortunately due to other commitments he was unable to continue. He will continue to support the group.

This year Beavers have been working hard to complete badges half done with visits from Police, Paramedics, and an exciting visit to the fire station.

They have looked at safety including personal, water, home and road have been thought about and practised. They have worked on disability sports with a game of gola ball and boccia. The Beavers have met challenges with enthusiasm and a smile. They have enjoyed camping and a variety of hikes.

We are pleased to welcome Tarryn Huyser to the position of Team Leader, she has already made her mark, and I am sure she will make a fantastic leader. Thank you to Charlotte and Terry King for supporting the section and helping with the changeover.

Thank you, to our young leaders Paige Warren, for sharing your knowledge and supporting our youngest section. You have done a fantastic job!

Ten Chief scout Bronze awards have been gained this year

Thank you

Beaver Team

Section Reports: Drake Cub Pack

cubs



Another year has passed!

Looking back we again managed our mixture of indoor and outdoor activities.

Highlight of the year is always camp and we managed to camp at Woodhouse Park in May (with Nelson and Ontario Beavers) and also at Cranham in September.

This year we went cycling for the first time. Not being too sure how it would all go we took a route from Seven Fields towards Pen Hill before turning back and up towards Priory Vale which did include some hills! Good news was that once at the top we could all enjoy the free-wheeling back down again. There was even time for a stop at the chip shop in Redhouse as well before returning back to Seven Fields. Such was the success we did another evening and this time cycled from near Morrisons out to Taw Hill and along the old railway line towards Barnfield before heading back home via Peatmoor. This time we stopped for an ice cream!

Our Christmas Party was at Rock Star climbing which was again enjoyed by everyone.

We also visited James Wilkes House taking along our home-made snowmen as presents and played games with the residents and shared some snacks and soft drinks.

During the year we took part in various District events including the Night Hike, Chess, Scrap Heap Challenge and Bowling and we thank everyone for organising these.

We also managed to cover our emergency aid badges and learnt about the emergency services and visited a fire station.

Drake Cubs continues to be a busy section being run by myself, Luke and Jamie supported by parents and young leaders. We usually have around 16 Cubs attending each week and manage to keep everyone informed via Facebook with photos and news during the year.

I'd like to thank Luke and Jamie for their role as leaders and also Debbie for helping us with the badges. Also special thanks to Lizzy and Holly who come along regularly as young leaders and are progressing with their Duke of Edinburgh awards as a result.

Once again thank you for your help and support.

Carl, Luke, Jamie, Lizzy and Holly

Section Reports: Nelson Cub Pack

We have had another fantastic year!

We had an action-packed programme, which the cubs threw themselves into with enthusiasm. From Camps to climbing, World Scouts Day to water fun and hiking to sports days. We have done it all and enjoyed every moment.



One of the cubs highlights was our night hike from Town Gardens park, through Old Town and the edge of the Lawn, to finish up in the town centre. Where everyone very happily tucked into their delicious waffles courtesy of Kaspas.

Another favourite was Bonfire night. The cubs all learnt about the history of Guy Fawkes before making their very own guys to burn on our fire at the back of the Wick.

This year we have focused on inclusivity and supporting each other. With a motto of never leaving anyone behind. The other value cubs have held true to the value of being seen and heard in the community, which this year has focused on care home visits and community work. This is something the Cubs and the leaders are keen to keep growing on

We have actively participated in numerous district events this year to show the Cubs that Swindon has many Cub packs and Akelas. The sports day at the County ground was a huge success, as well as the annual district bowl. The cubs loved working alongside the other packs and worked as a team to support and encourage each other through each event. They made us leaders very proud and Riley brought home the young leaders trophy for 1st Swindon Sea Scouts. We also had cubs represent the pack at Sixers Day with other groups. They worked fabulously with other teams and bought back to the group a whole host of new games that they managed to teach to the Sixes.

We have spent a few sunny days up at Bowmoor Lake, where the cubs have been able to work on their kayaking and water safety skills. This is only made possible by leaders and volunteers from 1st Swindon Sea Scouts and Explorers, as we rely on those with permits for kayaking to ensure the safety of our cubs. We are very grateful for their time and support and it's a valuable opportunity for them to get ready for moving on to Scouts.

Nelson's have managed another fabulous camp with Drake and Ontario Beavers, helping Woodhouse Park celebrate 70 years, and the teamwork of the leaders, helpers and young people is always amazing. They all enjoyed a variety of activities ranging from shooting to crate stacking, and the supportive nature of all cubs and beavers shone.

This year's leaders have been: Sally, Jack, Amy and Noria (Akela) Team Leader.

A massive 9 cubs will leave Nelsons this year with silver awards, and to see the growth in confidence and independence of these young people has been phenomenal. We have also handed out 39 challenge badges and 100 other badges.

The pack continues to go from strength to strength, seeking new challenges and always giving 100%. Despite having an amazing leadership team, we are always happy to accept help and support from any parents or careers who feel they may have something to offer. Or who are simply happy to come along and support us on the sidelines, ensuring we can continue doing more exciting things. We really can't run without your commitment and support.

The leadership team would like to take the opportunity to thank the young leaders Elliot, Riley, Thomas and Niko, who have given their time this year and supported us so fantastically. They now can all successfully plan a session and an example was Halloween games, which the cubs enjoyed immensely. We couldn't have managed many of our events without their support. So, thank you and keep up the excellent work.



SCOUTS

Swallow Scouts

The Scouts Swallow Troop are the biggest of our sections. They amaze me with their enthusiasm and determination. They are keen to participate in all activities often adding their own interpretation. During public events such as the Remembrance parade, we are often praised by the manners and behaviour of the scouts.



A Scout section is successful because of its members and its team, so thank you to David McGaw, Jools Howe, Lucy Schofield, Tristan Lowe, Tersia Hall and not forgetting our young leaders, Samuel, Jamie, Bobby and George.

Camps have become a great time for new friendships and try new activities. I have been very impressed by the Scouts cooking skills.

We continue to encourage parents to share their skills so if you are able to share basic car maintenance skills, wood craft, plumbing, decorating, sewing. Knitting or anything more then please let us know.

I would like to thank all of you (past and present) for your support, but it never stops so please continue to support.

Eight Chief Scout Gold Awards were gained this year.

Scout Leadership Team: Jackie Stevens, David McGaw, Lucy Schofield, Tersia Hall, Tristan Lowe and Jools Howe

EXPLORERS

The Poseidon Explorers Unit has grown in numbers and continues to thrive. It's members are enthusiastic and full of great ideas.

Awards gained this year by explorers this year are as follows:

Six Platinum awards

Two Diamond Awards

Two Young Leader Belts

Three personal Sailing permits

A power boat qualification

Congratulations to all those concerned

As you will be aware, Explorers plan their own programme, which is varied and imaginative. This year they have been very active taking part in a range of activities not only with their Unit but with other explorer units. This enables a wider range of experiences to be had by all.

The summer season went very well with the explorers showing how their skills have improved as they embarked on two handed sailing.

I am pleased to say that many of the explorers have taken up young leader roles in our younger sections many of which two have completed their explorer belt.

I would like to thank Terry King and Mark Benn, for all the time and energy that they put into enabling the explorers to achieve their aims. Without the dedication of these leaders, we would be unable to run the activities that we do.

Finally, thank you to all the parents for supporting us throughout the year!

Poseidon ESU leadership team, Jackie Stevens, Terry King and Mark Benn