Cabot Scout District Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From 01/04/2025 to 31/03/26

Charity name	Cabot Scout District
Other names the charity is known by	Cabot District Scout Council
Registered charity number (if any)	1205644
HQ registration number	16719
Charity's principal address	8 Farington Road Bristol BS10 5BW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name		Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year		
1	Don	Pritchard	Chair			
2	David	De Silva	Treasurer	01/05/25	to	03/07/25
3	Isaac	Briggs	Treasurer	09/10/25		onwards
4	Maddie	Jenkins	District Lead Volunteer	01/04/25	to	09/05/25
5	Chris	Gavriel	Acting District Lead Volunteer	19/05/25		onwards
6	Charis	Wood	Trustee			
7	Andy	Pope	Trustee			
8	Alan	Pratt-Walters	Trustee			
9	Maura	Hannon	Trustee			
10	Karen	Tindall	Trustee	03/07/25		onwards

Type of advisor	Name		
Scrutineer	Helen Hobbs		

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	The District'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.
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed, elected)	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice) You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about: Policies and procedures adopted for: a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee'	The District is managed by the Cabot District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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 Trustee Board consists of Chair and Treasurer, together with the District Commissioner and District Youth Commissioner (role not filled) and other nominated, elected or co-opted members and meets 5 times a year with occasional ad hoc meetings, either in person or online. Members of the Trustee Board complete *'Essential Information'* training, '*Safeguarding*' training, '*Safety'* training, *'Trustee Introduction'* training and '*General Data Protection Regulations'* training within the first 5 months of joining the Trustee Board.

consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them	The District Trustee Board exists to support the District Lead Volunteer and to ensure that the District is run safely and legally, more specifically responsibilities include: ● The maintenance of District property; ● The raising of funds and the administration of District finance; ● The insurance of persons, property and equipment; ● Overview of Safety and Safeguarding; ● Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; ● Appointing any sub committees that may be required; ● Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustees identified the major risks to which the District is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to District equipment. The District has sufficient insurance in place to mitigate against loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the annual membership fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Insurance was also expanded in 2025 to ensure that any occasional helpers are also covered whilst acting for the District. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income. The District receives income from annual membership fees. The Committee could raise the value of these to increase income on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, including 2 signatories for all cheque payments and 2 approvals for all electronic payments.

The financial and Scouting activity status of constituent Groups remains stable and positive so the general focus now is on recruitment of young people and adult volunteers. Some constituent Groups own their headquarters and property outright, however many that rent or lease their headquarters are at risk from change in circumstance.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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.

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.

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- make and live by their Promise.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Sadly, our District Lead Volunteer Maddie Jenkins had to stand down early in the year (May 2025) due to an illness, from which she has now happily recovered.

At that time, Chris Gavriel agreed to step in as Acting District Lead Volunteer, working closely as a team with Rob Laurence (Programme Team Lead) and Owen Jones (Lead 14-24), whilst a search for a new DLV was implemented by Avon County, this search unfortunately proving fruitless at which stage CG agree to continue in role on the same basis as above.

Issues stemming from Transformation, Prevention of Future Deaths and Charity Commission guidance have all been to the fore during this period, absorbing much energy from the District Leadership Team and Trustee Board.

A positive outcome of this was the District Team arranging a number of workshops, which brought together Lead Volunteers and Chairs from our Groups, to discuss Risk processes in particular, importantly gaining feedback from Members on a number of topics. This has helped us a District Team to implement some new processes whilst improving others, better supporting our Groups and helping them to review their own Risk processes as well as enhancing the relationships between the Operational and Governance sides of Cabot and its Groups.

2025 Census saw a fairly neutral return against 2024, with a modest growth in Squirrels and Beavers being offset by small reductions in Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and particularly Network, the latter continuing to be a challenge in the District, mainly as a significant majority move away from Bristol once they have finished Explorers. As regards Adult volunteers, the same Census data saw a net increase of 18.

District activities have continued to be organised across all section age groups, led by Rob Laurence and his team in the younger sections and by Owen Jones in the case of 14-24s.

Cabot Trustee Board would like to thank all Adult Volunteers who, by supporting the District and its Groups and Sections, have ensured that our Young People have benefitted from exciting, engaging and stretching activities throughout the year.

During this time, there were the following specific actions by the District Trustee Board

- Held Board meetings in person, with some specific matters also being dealt with online
- Monitored training and compliance for adult volunteers
- Took an active role in the workshops arranged for Group Lead Volunteers and Chairs regarding some risk aspects
- Successfully searched for and recruited a new District Treasurer, who is now fully in role
- Supported several Groups in both Operational and Governance aspects, in particular during times of leadership team change
- Agreed significant investment in First Aid training equipment, to allow formation of a Cabot First Aid team and reduce reliance on external St Johns Ambulance, who have been of significant assistance to Cabot for some while now, for which we extend our thanks
- Completed our first Charities Commission return
- Working with the Operational District Team, we have continued to enhance the District's relationship with Brockmead (Spaniorum Trust) with a view to putting a formal agreement in place between Cabot and Spaniorum, this being necessary for governance reasons; as at August 2026, the agreement is now very close to signature.

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about: • policy on grant making; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments.	

Public benefit statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

See attached DLV Impact Statement

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	**Reserves Policy** The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the district should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District held reserves of approximately £130,000 against this at year end.
Quantify and explain any designations	
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	

Further financial review details (optional information)

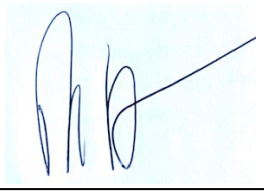
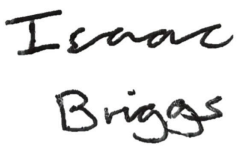
You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives	The District has retained a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds, ensuring that funds are held in cash or deposit accounts using only mainstream banks or building societies, this including a 'Notice' Account to ensure that some interest income is obtained from funds requiring less immediate access. The District has also seen a reduction in the level of funds held, this due to investments particularly in First Aid support for our volunteers and storage facilities.

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)	Overall numbers in the District have remained broadly static, during the last year and it is fair to say that Transformation and District Leadership challenges have impacted on momentum and profile of the DIstrict over the past year. However, there is now a solid District team in place, specific Transformation actions have generally been achieved and Charities Commission actions undertaken, albeit further may of course prove necessary over time. "More People Doing More Things"... The District is now in a good place to move forward and the District Leadership Team have agreed on specific priorities for this coming year which include: - Enhancing clarity across the District as to Leadership Team - Running collaborative workshops for the District on Behavioural aspects, this being seen as a challenge to recruitment and retention of adult volunteers (October 2026) - Campaign to aid recruitment, for both the District and its Groups, this being media based and, importantly, to be ongoing (launch Autumn 2026) - More flexibility with our Groups, particularly in respect of Explorers, where leader numbers remain a challenge - District Jamboree is being planned for May 2027, the target being that this is of sufficient interest to attract 1,000 Young People, so about half of the District - Regular newsletter to be sent to all Cabot Volunteers, this to enhance communication across the District (launch September 2026) - All of the above falls under Cabot District's new 'Vision' or 'Strapline' of "More People doing more things" - As regards District finances, the District has seen a good deal of unusually high expenditure, on items such as First Aid Equipment, District Stores, May 2026 St Georges Day Parade, some of which are yet to show through fully in Accounts, but all of which are entirely valid and properly debated items of expenditure. The Camp planned for May 2027 may also require some District financial support.

As a result of the above, District finances are under review in terms of whether the current District 'Capitation' amount of £6 remains sufficient.

The Cabot District Team are genuinely excited about the clear and concise 'Vision' of "More People Doing More Things" and look forward to supporting all Volunteers and Young People in achieving this shared objective.

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

Signature(s)			
Full name(s)	Don Pritchard		Isaac Briggs
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)	Chair		Treasurer
Date	01/09/2026		01/09/2026

Cabot Scout District
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1/4/2025	To	31/3/2026

Receipts and payments

	2025/26				2024/25	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total funds £	Total funds £	Note
Receipts						
Donations, legacies and similar income						
Membership fees (Groups)	122,540.50	-	-	122,540.50	126,335.50	1
Donations	-	-	-	-	1.00	
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	
Gift Aid	7,316.57	-	-	7,316.57	7,756.67	2
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	129,857.07	-	-	129,857.07	134,093.17	
Grants						
Maintenance grant	-	-	-	-	-	
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Fundraising events (gross)						
Other fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Other income						
Training courses/First Aid	1,380.00	-	-	1,380.00	- 80.00	
District-led sectional activities	11,587.67	-	-	11,587.67	14,017.13	
Explorer programme & activities	105,917.47	-	-	105,917.47	72,202.41	3
Network programme & activities	-	-	-	-	-	
Namaste Nepal	-	-	-	-	133.26	4
Ten Tors	20,750.04	-	-	20,750.04	18,998.71	
Badge income	1,984.00	-	-	1,984.00	315.00	
Other income	5,003.99	-	-	5,003.99	3,296.65	
Sub total	146,623.17	-	-	146,623.17	108,883.16	
Investment income						
Bank interest	1,052.56	-	-	1,052.56	1,481.19	
Other investment income	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	1,052.56	-	-	1,052.56	1,481.19	
Total Gross Income	277,532.80	-	-	277,532.80	244,457.52	
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	277,532.80	-	-	277,532.80	244,457.52	

Cabot Scout District
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1/4/2025	To	31/3/2026

Receipts and payments

	2025/26				2024/25	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total funds £	Total funds £	Note
Payments						
Charitable Payments						
Membership subscriptions paid on	109,935.00	-	-	109,935.00	106,200.00	5
Gift Aid paid on	7,316.57	-	-	7,316.57	7,756.67	
District-led sectional activities	10,617.66	-	-	10,617.66	13,014.13	
Explorer programme & activities	91,468.97	-	-	91,468.97	68,723.33	6
Network programme & activities	-	-	-	-	-	
Subsidy & support	200.00	-	-	200.00	900.00	
Support loans to District sections	-	-	-	-	- 814.58	
Adult support & training	2,296.00	-	-	2,296.00	255.76	
Insurance	367.94	-	-	367.94	546.87	
Repairs & renewals	-	-	-	-	-	
Equipment & materials	2,513.05	-	-	2,513.05	3,583.60	
Premises rental	6,119.65	-	-	6,119.65	4,415.47	7
Administration costs	896.49	-	-	896.49	771.26	
Uniform & badge purchases	1,619.94	-	-	1,619.94	200.00	
AGM & trustee expenses	1,037.50	-	-	1,037.50	835.45	
Travel expenses	142.09	-	-	142.09	157.63	
Charitable donations	304.00	-	-	304.00	-	
Namaste Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	
Ten Tors	16,322.69	-	-	16,322.69	19,865.43	
Sub total	251,157.55	-	-	251,157.55	226,411.02	
Fundraising expenses						
Bank charges	95.42	-	-	95.42	94.50	
Payment processing fees	134.72	-	-	134.72	341.07	
Sub total	230.14	-	-	230.14	435.57	
Total Gross Expenditure	251,387.69	-	-	251,387.69	226,846.59	
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	251,387.69	-	-	251,387.69	226,846.59	
Net of receipts/(payments)	26,145.11	-	-	26,145.11	17,610.93	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds last year end	227,304.91	967.00	-	228,271.91	210,660.98	
Cash funds this year end	253,450.02	967.00	-	254,417.02	228,271.91	

Cabot Scout District
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1/4/2025	To	31/3/2026

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/3/2026 Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total funds £	31/3/2025 Total funds £	Note
Cash funds						
District current account	**149,894.65**	-	-	149,894.65	**144,687.75**	
District savings account	**53,338.79**	-	-	53,338.79	**52,286.23**	
District Stripe account	**1,009.80**	-	-	1,009.80	-	
Explorers current account	**34,784.87**	-	-	34,784.87	**20,306.78**	
Explorers Stripe account	**185.68**	-	-	185.68	**215.27**	
Namaste Nepal current account	**3,217.95**	**967.00**	-	4,184.95	**4,184.95**	
Namaste Nepal cash float	**94.25**	-	-	94.25	**94.25**	
Ten Tors current account	**10,924.03**	-	-	10,924.03	6,496.68	
Total cash funds	253,450.02	967.00	-	254,417.02	228,271.91	
Other monetary assets						
Debts due	**7,080.50**	-	-	7,080.50	**8,437.00**	8
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	7,080.50	-	-	7,080.50	15,748.37	
Investment assets						
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Non monetary assets for charity's own use						
Badge stock	**1,674.70**	-	-	1,674.70	**158.30**	
Land & buildings	-	-	-	-	-	
Motor vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	**41,040.00**	-	-	41,040.00	**41,040.00**	9
Other	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	42,714.70	-	-	42,714.70	41,198.30	
Liabilities						
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-	
Subscriptions not yet paid	**109,782.00**	-	-	109,782.00	**109,935.00**	10
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	109,782.00	-	-	109,782.00	109,935.00	
Total net assets	193,463.22	967.00	-	194,430.22	175,283.58	

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on dd/mm/yyyy and signed on their behalf by:

Signature	Print Name
	Chair
	Treasurer

Cabot Scout District
Notes to the Accounts

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	**1/4/2025**	**To**	**31/3/2026**

1. Annual membership subscriptions are reported gross, i.e. includes membership fee components that are paid on.
2. Gift Aid is reclaimed on Explorer Scout membership subscriptions and other eligible donations where supported by a valid declaration.
3. Includes Explorer subscriptions.
4. Namaste Nepal is now completely dormant with no income or expenditure this year.
5. Membership fees for 2025 were paid on 1st April 2026 and thus appear under "Subscriptions not yet paid".
6. Includes catch-up transfers to the district International and Equipment funds from previous year.
7. Relates almost fully to the hire of a secure storage facility to re-house District/Ten Tors equipment while the store at the 169th is being rebuilt.
8. Debts Due includes unpaid/overdue Group membership fees.
9. No movement in insured value - large purchase of first aid training equipment was made, but this is held & insured by 7th so not included here.
10. Membership fee was paid to Avon County during the first week of FY 26/27 at their request.

Template for the scrutineer's report to the trustees

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of Cabot Scout District

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended 31st March 2026

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages 1 to 3

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name: HELEN HOBBS

Address: 33 DOLANS COTE DRIVE
BRISTOL
BS9 3TS

Date: 5 SEPTEMBER 2026