

First Scouts Luton Sea Scout Group

2026 Annual General Meeting





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Lead Volunteer Introduction



The Group has enjoyed a strong and stable year, with membership remaining consistently high across all sections. On average, the Group comprised 19 Beavers, 24 Cubs, and 40 Scouts. The adult volunteer team has also remained largely consistent, with several new faces—primarily parents and young people who have turned 18—to support the delivery of the programme.



The Group continues to deliver an exceptional programme across all sections. In 2025, more than 100 young people benefited from opportunities that are unique within the local area; something we should be very proud of. Our national recognition with the RYA and Paddle UK enabled us to award a wide range of qualifications to both young people and adults. The Group Camp at Luton Hoo in May, attended by 76 members, focused on progression through the next stage of the Nautical Skills Badge.





The Water Activity Days held during the summer were once again highly successful, attracting hundreds of young people from across the local area. These events are valued within Bedfordshire and represent a significant fundraising opportunity for the Group. With the changes at Luton Hoo, discussions are ongoing with the District to potentially deliver a joint event with Riparian Explorers at Stewartby this year, with the intention of returning similar events to Luton Hoo from 2027. These conversations have also opened up wider opportunities for future collaboration with the Explorer Unit, which is welcomed.

A considerable focus this year has been securing the Group's long-term future at Luton Hoo. During the autumn, we formally said farewell to the existing boathouse, marking the occasion with an event attended by many former members. Attendees were able to see how the facility has evolved in recent years and share stories and memories, while current members took part in water-based activities and leaders' families also enjoyed time on the lake. Although it was a poignant moment, the event was positive and well-received.



Throughout the year, three members of the Trustee Board have engaged in ongoing discussions with the Arora





Hotel Group regarding future access to the estate. Access to the South Lake has now ceased due to development plans for the Warren Weir Conference Centre. However, it is anticipated that an agreement will soon be finalised granting the Group use of the North Lake, along with an area for our facilities, from this summer. Given the nature of the site, activities during 2026 may initially be limited to paddle sports, but this will still allow members to gain valuable experiences. Plans for 2026 include establishing a functional temporary base consisting of containers for equipment storage and a small compound area whilst we pursue a longer-term home. Discussions are also underway with the Sea Cadets regarding the shared use of facilities such as their toilet block.

This year saw the introduction of the new Scout Online Membership System. Although the transition required significant initial work to ensure data accuracy, the system has since operated smoothly. The system also brought new requirements for adult training, mainly in the form of updated online modules, many of which have now been completed by volunteers. The most substantial change has been the requirement for all adults in child-facing roles to hold a First Aid qualification. Most volunteers have achieved this through the RYA and First Response training provided by the Group, with the remainder signposted to District and County opportunities.

At First Luton, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a number of highly skilled and dedicated leaders. Recently, one of our longest serving volunteers, Phil, was presented with the Silver Acorn; one of the highest awards for adults in scouting. This recognises the huge contribution he has made to our group and the impact that this work has had. A huge congratulations goes to Phil for this achievement.





I would like to extend sincere thanks to our dedicated team of adult volunteers. Their commitment—whether through organising and running section meetings, supporting events, maintaining our facilities, serving on the Trustee Board, or contributing in other ways—is deeply appreciated by our young people and their families. The Group could not function without their generosity and hard work.
Although challenges and changes lie ahead, I remain confident that 2026 will be an exciting and positive year for the Group.

Allan Maher
(Lead Volunteer)

Our Young People

At the time of the accounting year-end, the group had worked with in excess of 100 young people in 2025. These were made up of those in our Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop in addition to the nine Young Leaders, who provided regular support at section meetings.

The Young People were ably guided by the strong and highly effective adult leadership team within the group. We also took the opportunity during lockdown to ensure that all training requirements were met and that all adults had an up-to-date understanding of key issues, such as safety and Safeguarding.

Beavers

Beavers have had a busy year completing badges, playing games, learning water skills and finding out about the Scouting movement and what it means to be in First Luton.

There is now regular attendance of 3 Leaders and 3 Young Leaders-still Geo, Emily and Oscar, who are a great asset to the team. Rabbit also still pops in every now and then which we appreciate!
We have another leader who focuses on attendance for the summer programme when we are at Luton Hoo.

Numbers of Beavers has been fairly consistent between 16 and 20 with a mix of girls and boys. We recently had some new starters, so our waiting list to join has reduced. If anyone has younger family members who would like to join when they're six, please do contact us so we can get you on the list.

We had a recent visit from our local MP Rachel Hopkins which the children found really interesting, as I think did she!

We continue to have a varied programme, with the aim to ensure all Beavers have the opportunity to gain their Chief Scout Bronze, should they wish, before they leave us.

Multiple badges are worked on over the course of the year with a focus on water and outdoor ones in the summer when at Luton Hoo.

The Beavers love being down on the lake and playing in the woods at the Hoo. They were sad to leave this summer but we face the challenges of the relocation with gusto.

Rebecca Maher
(Beaver Leader)

Cubs

"I love going to Cubs and making new friends. We do so many things that we wouldn't normally do, especially when we go to the lake. I really enjoy the different badges, especially the space badge, where we got to use VR headsets to explore the Solar System!"

"She really enjoys the water sports in the summer, as well as the games at the hut as it promotes teamwork. She also enjoys making friends from different schools that she wouldn't get to meet normally if it wasn't for cubs."

"The team do a fabulous job. My child really enjoys being part of Sea Scouts, especially the water activities"

"Although he doesn't always enjoy school, I have noticed that being part of Sea Scouts has helped improve his behaviour and confidence. He has also developed important skills such as teamwork and responsibility."

The Cub Pack has enjoyed a successful year which has included a diverse and engaging programme aimed at supporting skills, confidence, and teamwork. Throughout the year, the Cubs have worked diligently towards a range of Activity Badges, which have included the Space Badge, Communicator Badge, and Backwoods Cooking Badge.



During the summer months, the Pack made extensive use of the facilities at Luton Hoo. A significant portion of the programme focused on water-based activities, particularly canoeing and kayaking, enabling Cubs to develop essential paddle skills and enhance their water confidence and safety awareness. Land-based sessions complemented this work, with orienteering and the development of broader nautical skills.



Two Nights Away events were delivered during the year:

- The Group Camp at Luton Hoo, attended by 17 Cubs, offered a range of outdoor challenges and team-based activities supporting the cubs to gain their Nautical Skills badge.
- The Winter Camp at Havering's Guide Centre, attended by 20 Cubs, provided a themed weekend—The Case of the Missing Elf!—planned and led by Wendy. This event offered a wide range of challenges and activities, resulting in an enjoyable and memorable experience for all participants.

Three Cubs achieved the Chief Scout Silver Award prior to Christmas, with further awards anticipated in the near future. This is a great achievement for the Cubs and highlights the strength and balance of the programme delivered throughout the year.



The year also saw changes within the adult leadership team. After several years, Paul stepped down from his Cub Leader role during the summer. Allan has stepped in, working alongside Trev, Wendy, and Luke, who have each contributed significantly to the operation and continuity of the Cub Section. The team was further strengthened by the addition of new adult volunteers, Lucy and Piotr, whose support has been greatly appreciated this year.

Our Young Leader team continue to support each evening incredibly well too, playing an active role, contributing to weekly sessions and progressing towards the completion of their Young Leader Challenges. We very much appreciate this support!
A continued focus has been placed on developing and supporting the adult leadership team this year, including how we help our new adults. Experienced leaders have provided instruction in areas such as fire lighting, pioneering, and water activities. Responsibilities have been increasingly distributed across the team, with various leaders taking ownership of different programme elements, including parade, activity instruction, and games.

Allan Maher

(Cub Leader)

Scouts

The Scouts are averaging 40 Scouts in the troop with 4 Young Leaders. Over the past 12 months we have issues over 200 badges, including 28 Nights away badges, 28 Time on the water badges, 18 Sailing badges and 37 Paddlesport badges.

Last summer we spent lots of time at the Hoo on the water, kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding making the most of our last time at the Hoo.

We also joined the rest of the Group at our Group camp at the Hoo, taking water in lots of water activities.




Our summer camp was at Grafham Water, where we spent a lot of time sailing and powerboating. We also took part in climbing, archery, laser tag, cycling round the lake a trip to a water park.




We have also been busy on Troop nights making new raft paddles, playing “Deal or no Deal” going to laser quest and we have just began the fundraising badge to raise money to help raise funds for our new boating facility.

This year we are looking forward to paddling at out new location and hopefully some sailing at Stewartby. This will prepare us for our Summer Camp this year at Lymington on the south coast.

Phil Jeffrey
(Scout Leader)

Our Trustee Board

Charity Commission Registration Number: 300465

Composition
At each AGM, the Trustee Board for the following year is elected. The Board is composed of a range of adults who have the skills and knowledge to help shape the strategic direction of the group and to support its aims.

In 2025, the Trustee Board was made up of the following:

Chair	Scott Roberts
Secretary	Dan Green
Treasurer	Allan Maher
Group Scout Leader	Allan Maher
Section Leaders	Rebecca Maher Paul Adcock/Allan Maher Phil Jeffrey
Group Representatives	Phillipa Missenden Paul Adcock Richard Davis Julian Barker Chris Wells Jenny Sanders Wendy Wilmer Steve Morris

Annual Accounts

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the independently examined accounts for the twelve months ended 30 November 2025.

The Charity's accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

Objectives
The Purpose of 1st Luton Sea Scouts is to continue the work of the worldwide Scouting movement which is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society and to provide them with water-based skills.

Activities and achievements
The charity carries out a number of activities in order to fulfil its charitable objectives. In particular, 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

The main achievements during the year are considered to be:

- Continued investment in our facilities and equipment
- The Group continued to thrive in terms of membership numbers and adult support
- A number of Chief Scouts Awards were gained across all sections
- A balanced programme was provided across all sections
- Nights away opportunities provided to all sections
- Continued success of our Water Activity Days and Training Programme
- Adult Awards received

Reserves

1st Luton Sea Scout Group holds reserves in accounts that earmark the use of those funds. The Group current account holds sufficient to cover the running costs for one year. The Group Development Fund account is used for developing the Group's Buildings. The Training Fund account is used to manage training revenues received and for making payments to coaches and instructors for our own Group training.

Surpluses are then transferred to the Equipment Fund. The Equipment Fund account is used to maintain and replaces boats and other relevant equipment.

The level of reserve for the Group Development fund and the Equipment fund will vary from year to year depending on planned scheduled or replacement expenditure required on repairing and replacing equipment and buildings over several years.

The Trustees consider that the level of reserves is appropriate in order to ensure that the charity is likely to be able to meet future costs, in particular in respect of equipment and site costs so that activities can continue.

All funds of the charity are unrestricted in nature. The charity has restricted funds that have been ringfenced for the new Luton Hoo development.

Financial Review

The Group has experienced a positive financial year, with end-of-year funds totalling £79,606.87, compared with £64,214.60 at the end of the previous financial year. This represents a strong financial position and provides stability as we continue planning for the future. A significant proportion of these funds is held as restricted reserves, allocated specifically towards the development of the new boating facility at Luton Hoo. These reserves will play an important role when the Group proceeds with capital expenditure related to this project.

The increase in income during the year can be attributed to several key factors. Fundraising income rose considerably due to the work undertaken by Julian in identifying and securing both local and national opportunities. This effort has not only increased financial contributions but has also strengthened the Group's profile within the wider community, which may further support future fundraising initiatives. Our main income streams continue to be membership subscriptions, which the Trustees have agreed to freeze for the coming year, and income from Water Activity Days. We anticipate, however, that income from Water Activity Days will reduce in 2026 due to restricted access during the transition to the new site.

Expenditure this year has been focused on supporting programme delivery and modernising equipment. Notably, the Group invested in a new fleet of small sailing boats suitable for beginners, as well as a number of new kayaks. These investments have enhanced the range and quality of activities available to young people and strengthened our ability to deliver a high-quality water programme.

Core operating costs—including insurance, utilities, rates, and membership fees—are expected to rise slightly in the coming year. The Trustees believe that the Group is in a sufficiently strong

financial position to manage these increases without placing additional pressure on members or reducing programme provision.

Overall, the Group's financial stability, combined with prudent planning and increased fundraising success, places us in a strong position as we move into 2026 and prepare for the next stage of development at Luton Hoo.

Governing Document
Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) defines the structure of Scouting in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and provides information about its management and training.

The Scout Association is a national charity and exists by authority of a Royal Charter granted in 1912 and supplemented by further charters granted by King George V and Queen Elizabeth II. It was founded in 1907. With a membership of over 618,000 young people and adult leaders, it is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK.

Scouting activity is delivered through around 8,000 community-based Scout Groups nationwide (all independent charities in their own right)

Trustees
The trustees of the group are appointed at the Annual General Meeting in line with the rules and requirements of the Scout Association.

The Lead Volunteer appoints the Chairman. The Secretary and Treasurer are automatically appointed.

Public Benefit
We are the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 6 to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities and teach them about good citizenship.
Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. We help young people to get jobs, save lives and even change the world.

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and consider that the charitable objects fall well within the public benefit guidelines. In setting the charitable objectives, the charity has given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees also regularly monitor the skills available to them as a trustee body and aim to seek new trustees where additional skills are needed.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Mr Scott Roberts
Chairman

Date: 23rd February 2026

1st Luton Sea Scouts – Annual

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of First Luton Sea Scout Group Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **First Luton Sea Scout Group** for the year ended 30th November 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the **First Luton Sea Scout Group** you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the **First Luton Sea Scout Group** accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the **First Luton Sea Scout Group** as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: K Cutler.

Name: Kirstene Cutler

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: ACA (ICAEW)

Address:14 Old Rectory Close, Harpenden, AL5 2UD
Date: 28/12/2025

Income

Receipts		
	Year to Dec 2024	**Year to Dec 2025**
Activity Income	£ 1,388.34	£ -
Camp and Trip Deposits	£ 10,859.86	£ 15,453.57
Donations and Fundraising	£ 585.14	£ 8,974.12
Gift Aid	£ 2,765.75	£ 4,907.75
Grants	£ 2,500.00	£ -
Leisurewear and Uniform	£ 1,129.99	£ -

1st Luton Sea Scouts – Annual

Subscriptions	£ 21,478.79	£ 24,328.93
Sundry Income	£ 122.27	£ 3.45
Training and Course Fees	£ 3,463.97	£ 1,901.86
Water Activity Days	£ 20,190.00	£ 23,880.00
Total Income	£ 64,484.11	£ 79,449.68

Expenditure

Payments		
	Year to Dec 2024	**Year to Dec 2025**
Membership Fees	£ 5,483.50	£ 4,966.50
Insurances	£ 6,256.16	£ 6,444.49
Utilities and Rates	£ 1,422.91	£ 2,061.58
Fire Protection	£ 144.00	£ 144.00
Cleaning Costs	£ -	£ 75.00
Accountant Fees	£ 180.00	£ 150.00
Leisurewear and Uniform	£ 1,195.18	£ 199.25
Badges	£ 452.23	£ 603.08
Activities	£ 3,661.99	£ 1,885.42
Nights Away	£ 11,344.93	£ 12,862.14
Equipment Purchase	£ 6,244.56	£ 26,517.24
Equipment Maintenance	£ 2,863.64	£ 5,519.92
Sundry Expenses	£ 910.20	£ 1,125.10
Swimming	£ -	£ -
Water Activity Days	£ -	£ 499.75
Training and Course Costs	£ 1,765.25	£ 728.45
Fuel	£ 271.93	£ 261.49
Total Receipt	£ 49,017.48	£ 64,057.41
Cash funds at last year end		£ 64,214.60
Net of receipts and payments		£ 15,392.27
Cash funds at this year end		£ 79,606.87
Account	**Funds at 1st December**	
Group Account	£ 24,421.84	
Development Account	£ 50,843.63	
Beaver Account	£ 737.65	
Cub Account	£ 472.38	
Scout Account	£ 1,742.07	
Equipment Account	£ 490.48	
Training Account	£ 898.82	
Cash Funds at This Year End	**£ 79,606.87**	
Liabilities		
Restricted funds in line with reserves policy	**£ 23,916.00**	
Restricted funds for specific projects*	**£ 50,000.00**	
Total unrestricted fund at year end	**£ 5,690.87**	

First Luton Sea Scout Group

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		30-Nov-25	30-Nov-24
		Funds	**Funds**
Cash funds		**£**	**£**
Cub Account		**1,210**	**497**
Equipment Fund Account		**490**	**683**
Group Account		**24,422**	**13,989**
Development Account		**50,844**	**47,000**
Training Account		**899**	**1,857**
Scout Troop Account		**1,742**	**189**
Total cash funds		**79,607**	**64,215**
Non monetary assets for charity's own use			
Boats and Boating Equipment	see notes	**51,950**	**34,569**
Other Equipment		**16,814**	**19,781**
Sub total		**68,764**	**54,350**
Liabilities		**-**	
Sub total		**-**	**-**
Total net funds		**148,371**	**118,565**

Minutes of 2025 AGM

First Luton Sea Scout Group
Annual General Meeting of the Group Council Minutes
Wednesday 05th March 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the First Luton Sea Scout Group Council took place on Wednesday 05th March 2025. on Teams at 7.30 pm.

Minutes

1. Welcome by Group Chairman

Chairman was unable to join, Welcome carried out by GSL Allan Maher

2. Apologies for Absence

Christa Jeffrey, Scott Robberts, Jenny Sanders, Becky Maher

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 08th May 2024

Read and reviewed,

4. Matters Arising from these Minutes.

nil matters raised from last meeting.

5. Reports:

- GSL
- Beaver Scouts From Becky Maher read by Alan Full details in the Annual Report
- Cub Scouts see Full Details in the Annual Report
- Scouts- From Phil Jeffrey. Full details in the Annual Report

6. Presentation of Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

shared on screen and briefed the detail by Allan Maher, difference between some where the allocation was allocated to different budget lines. Discussions ongoing to how to spend the money wisely.

7. Appointment of Auditors December 2024 to November 2025

Kristine Cultler nominated by Allan and seconded by Julian Barker

8. Adoption of the model constitution as laid out in POR 5.4

adoption agreed with no amendments.
Allan proposed and Julian seconded the motion.

9. Appointment of the Group Chairman

in 3 year, term due to expire 2027

10. Appointment of the Group Treasurer

no one nominated, Allan to carry on as interim and group to see if there is someone that could do this role

11. Appointment of Trustee Board members up for renewal/ vacancies

Dick- happy to stand again
Jenny- happy to stand again
Julian- happy to stand again
no other interest or suggestion.

12. Maximum and minimum number of trustee board members

continue as guided by the constitution max 12, min 5, 5 for a meeting (1/3rd+1)

13. District Representative

Ben Summerfield, shared and complemented the group, thank us for all the hard work we have done over the year.

14. Any Notified Other Business

no other business raised.