Scouts

Watford South

Annual Report 2025

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AGM Agenda

1. **Introduction and welcome**

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Governance topics**

   a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th July 2025

   b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules

   c. Note the District's financial year

   d. Approve appointed and community members of the District 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 District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

4. **Review of the previous year**

   a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in Watford South

   b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual statement of accounts

5. **Making appointments**
    a. Appoint the District Chair
    b Appoint the Interim District Bookkeeper
    c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board
    d. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner for District Accounts
    e. Appoint Lees Wood Management Committee representatives
    f. Nominate two representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
    g. Vacancy for Treasurer
    h. Vacancy for 2nd Lees Wood Trustee

6. **Awards**

7. **Any Other Business and Closing Remarks**

Overview of minutes at 2025 AGM

9th July 2025

	Attendees:
	District Trustee Board Members:
	Sam Shepherd (District Chair Person)
	Christine Turnbull (District Lead Volunteer)
	Barry Hulin (District Treasurer)
	Jack Jarman (District Safeguarding Lead)
	Toby Hancock (District Youth Commissioner)
	Brian Fox (District Administrator)
	Other Attendees:
	See Attendance List attached.
	Meeting Started: 19:40. Meeting Ended: 21:00
	Note: These minutes should be read in conjunction with the document titled 'Watford South 'Annual Report 2025'. (Title should read 2024).
1	**Introduction & Welcome**
1.1	Sam Shepherd welcomed members of the District Scout Council and introduced the meeting.
1.2	Sam Shepherd thanked Lees Wood for use of 'Beeches' for the meeting venue.

2	**Apologies for Absence**
2.1	Apologies for absence were received from the following: Cllr. Laurance Brass - Chairman Hertfordshire County Council Cynthia Blake Tony Tickner Charlotte (Lottie) Wright Wendy Clark Antony Bailey Nick Toms Diane Mirza Adam Warden
3	**Governance Topics**
3.1 3.1.1	Minutes of Last A.G.M The last District A.G.M was held on 10th July 2024. Minutes of the meeting are included in the 'Annual Report 2025' attached. There were no comments from those present on the minutes. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2024 District AGM: Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: Dave King. Approved: Members of the District Scout Council present.
3.2	Adoption of District Constitution:

3.2.1	In line with the recommendations from Scout Headquarters, the District Trustee Board proposed adoption of the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation & Rules. A copy of this is included in the 'Annual Report for 2025' attached. Acceptance of the Model Constitution: Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: Jeni Wright. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
3.3	District's Financial Year
3.3.1	Sam Shepherd asked members of the District Scout Council to note that our District accounting financial year is 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.
3.4	Approval of appointed & community members of the District Scout Council
3.4.1	No nominations for community appointments to the District Scout Council.
3.5	Agreement to the number of members that may be appointed to the District Trustee Board

3.5.1	Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, P.O.R states that Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 members. The outgoing Trustee Board recommended that 6 people are appointed to the District Trustee Board. (Currently there are 4 trustees on the Board). Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: David King. Agreed: Members of the District Scout Council present.
3.6	Agreement of the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council
3.6.1	The outgoing District Trustee Board recommended that the quorum of District Scout Council members which must be present at District Scout Council meetings remains at 15 members. Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: David Stein. Agreed: All members of the District Scout Council present.
4	**Review of the previous year (2024)**
4.1	District Lead Volunteer's Review
4.1.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached for the DLV's Report.
4.1.2	Chris Turnbull presented her annual review highlighting the following issues.

4.1.3	Districts are challenged by HQ to grow young people membership in 2025 by 4.4.%. To achieve this, we need to open another Squirrels Drey.
4.1.4	There are age gaps in young people membership within the District due to Covid, but these are gradually working through and evening out the overall age profile.
4.1.5	The scheduling of District events needs to be changed going forward as there have been too many events taking place in June of this year.
4.1.6	There are gaps in the District Team which need to be filled. We need: Section Leads to oversee the delivery of scouting programmes in each section. (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts). Activity Leads. (Walking & Sailing). A Volunteer Development Lead. We need to look after our leaders to prevent them becoming overburdened with scouting tasks and to ensure their development and retention. GLV's and Section Leaders are responsible for making nominations via the IT system for awards of merit etc.

4.1.7	We need to look after our leaders to avoid them becoming overloaded with scouting matters and to ensure their development and retention. GLV's and Section Leaders are responsible for making nominations for awards to leaders.
4.1.8	We need a chairperson for the Lees Wood Management Committee and more support for the weekend site maintenance crews.
4.2	Annual Report of the District Trustee Board
4.2.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached for the District Financial Review for 2024.
4.2.2	The District Trustee Board have reviewed and approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. The accounts have been independently reviewed and approved by Valerie Collins.
4.2.3	Barry Hulin outlined main items from the District accounts for 2024. There were no questions from attendees on the accounts.
4.2.4	Group treasurers should ensure that their subscription charges to young people allow for anticipated future increases in the amount of capitation levied by HQ and County.
4.2.5	The Excalibur Explorer Unit now maintains their own bank account.

4.2.6	Sam Shepherd thanked Barry Hulin for all his hard work in managing the District finances.
4.3	Excalibur Explorer Unit Annual Review
4.3.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached. Highlights from the report were outlined by Zoe Fayer.
4.4	Apollo Explorer Unit Annual Review
4.4.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached. Highlights from the report were outlined by Adam Greenstreet.
4.5	Network Annual Review
4..5.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached. Highlights from the report were outlined by Adam Grenstreet.
4.6	District Youth Commissioner's Review
4.6.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached. Highlights from the report were outlined by Toby Hancock.
4.7	District Safeguarding Lead's Review
4.7.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached.
4.8	District Chair Person's Review
4.8.1	See 'Annual Report 2025' attached.

5	**Appointments**
5.1	Appointment of District Chair
5.1.1	Appointment of Sam Shepherd as District Chair for 2025. Proposed: Chris Turnbull. Seconded: Jeni Wright. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
5.2	Appointment of District Treasurer
5.2.1	Appointment of Barry Hulin as District Treasurer for 2025. Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: Dave King. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
5.3	Appointment of Safeguarding Lead
5.3.1	Appointment of Jack Jarman as District Safeguarding Lead for 2025. Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Seconded: Melissa Fox. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.

5.4	Appointment of Scrutineer for 2025
5.4.1	Appointment of Valerie Colins as Scrutineer of the District Accounts for 2025. Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
5.5	Nomination of two representatives from the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
5.5.1	Krishant Uka and Jack Jarman. Proposed: Sam Shepherd. Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
5.6	Nomination of two Lees Wood representatives
5.6.1	Jeni Wright and David Stein. Proposed: Sam Shepherd Approved: All members of the District Scout Council present.
5.7	Vacant Roles
5.7.1	There are vacancies on the District Trustee Board for a Property Portfolio Lead and a Parent Representative.

6	**Awards**
6.1	Chris Turnbull had no awards to present as she is up to date with award presentations to recipients.
7	Any other business and closing remarks
7.1	Sam Shepherd gave an update on progress of the sale of the vacant 15th HQ premises. (Moreton Hall). The District has a potential buyer for the site but there are a lot of steps to go through to complete the sale. In due course the District trustees will decide how proceeds from the sale are invested and distributed within the District. Sam Shepherd thanked Neo Moise for the work he has done in engaging with estate agents to commence the sale process.
7.2	Diane Rogers advised the meeting of arrangements for groups notifying her of their badge purchase requirements and for printing top award certificates.
7.3	Chris Turnbull stated that planning for this summer's expedition to Lochernhead is going well. 42 young people will be attending. There are too many leaders attending.
7.4	Chris Turnbull stated that District will be allocated one young person place for the 2027 Jamboree in Poland. She will be contacting Groups for their nominations for potential attendees. Young people must be 14 - 18 at the

	time of the Jamboree. District will provide some financial support for the chosen participant if District funds permit, but this cannot be guaranteed at present.
7.5	As the County Representative at the AGM, Neo Moise thanked attendees for what they do for scouting. He recognised the good attendance at the District promise renewal event in April. Neo encouraged leaders to engage with their young people to get them to help plan their programmes so that activities are aligned with what they want to do.

Policy, Organisation and Rules Constitution

5c.2 Constitution for a District (except Scotland)
5c.2.1 Preamble
5c.2.1.1
This constitution describes the role, membership and operation of the District Scout Council, and the District Trustee Board.

In the previous versions of POR, it was section 5.5.
5c.2.2 Charitable objects
5c.2.2.1
[Rule 1.1 of POR]
Our purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

5c.2.3 The District Scout Council

5c.2.3.1
The District Scout Council has a governance role for the charity and makes District Trustee Board appointments other than ex officio and co-opted Trustee appointments.

5c.2.3.2
The District Scout Council has no Trustee responsibilities.

5c.2.3.3
The members of the District Scout Council are
a) The ex officio members of the District Scout Council are detailed in Rule 5b.3.2.5
b) The District Scout Council may appoint some members as detailed in Rule 5b.3.2.8.
c) The District Scout Council may appoint some community members. See Rule 5b.3.2.9

d) The maximum number of appointed and community members of a District Scout Council is detailed in Rule 5b.3.2.10.

5c.2.3.4
District Trustee Board administration must ensure that appointed District Scout Council Members are recorded locally in the minutes of the District Scout Council meeting which appoints them (normally the AGM). District Scout Council members (whether ex officio or appointed or community) must not be recorded as such on the membership system.

5c.2.4 The District Trustee Board
5c.2.4.1
The District Trustee Board is responsible for the governance of the charity. Although the District Trustee Board is responsible for the charity, it is accountable to the District Scout Council.

5c.2.4.2
District Trustee Board membership
The members of the District Trustee Board are:
a) Ex officio
The ex officio roles are defined in Rule 5b.3.3.5(a).
b) Appointed District Trustees (including Chair and Treasurer) are persons appointed by
the District Scout Council as described in Rule 5b.3.3.5(b).
c) The selection process for appointed District Trustees must follow Rules 5b.3.3.5(b)
and 5b.3.3.6.
d) Co-opted Trustees are persons co-opted by the District Trustee Board, see Rule

5b.3.3.5(c). Their term of appointment is a maximum of 12 months (though re- appointment is permitted).
The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of appointed Trustees, excluding Chair and Treasurer. If a co-option is required

mid-year because of a vacancy arising, then this rule may be broken, provided that the total number of Trustees remains no greater than the total number of Trustees permitted by District Scout Council resolution at the AGM.
The selection process for co-opted Trustees must follow Rules 5b.3.3.5(c) and 5b.3.3.6.

5c.2.5 District Scout Council – Annual General Meeting
5c.2.5.1
To support the planning and delivery of a District AGM there is a downloadable 'script' (including agenda and script templates and a suggested planning timetable).

5c.2.5.2
Each District Scout Council must hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months of the end of the District's financial year. The District should give four weeks' notice of the date of the AGM.

5c.2.5.3
The AGM must:
a) Undertake governance oversight by
- approving the minutes of the previous District AGM
- adopting (or re-adopting) the constitution of the charity (see Rule 5b.3)
- noting the dates of charity's financial year
- approving appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
- agreeing the maximum total number of members of the District Trustee Board (this is one number representing the total of ex officio, appointed and co-opted members)
- agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council

b) Review the previous financial year by
- receiving from the District Lead Volunteer an overview of the past 12 months of activity in the District
- receiving and considering the District Trustees' Annual Report and the

annual statement of accounts which have been approved by the District Trustee Board.

c) Make appointments

- appoint a Chair of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- appoint a Treasurer of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- appoint other members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- approve the appointment of any District Presidents or District Vice Presidents and note current appointees (if any).
- appoint (or re-appoint) an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer (see 5a.1.7)
- nominate two representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

5c.2.6 District Trustee Board – purpose

5c.2.6.1

The District Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance, working to ensure that the District is meeting The Scout Association's overall aims and strategic goals. Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

5c.2.6.2

Members of the District Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of the District, and in the best interests of the District's members.

5c.2.6.3

The District Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting

with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:
a) the charity is:
• well managed
• carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
• complying with the charity's governing document and the law
• managing the charity's resources responsibly
b) The charity is operating compliant with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in POR Chapter 2.
c) Young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
d) The District has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the District including delivery of the high quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (see Rule 4.3.7)

5c.2.6.4
The District Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:
a) develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
b) ensure that the District's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the District
c) ensure that where one of the District's Explorer Units is partnered with a Group and the operational financing is undertaken by the Group, this arrangement is documented in the Partnership Agreement, and the finance arrangements must follow this guidance.
d) maintain and manage:
• a reserves policy for the charity. This must address the minimum reserves that should be maintained to allow for difficult financial circumstances in the District, and must also include a statement about how reserves outside that 'minimum' will be used for development of Scouts
• an investment policy for the charity
• a public benefit statement for the charity
e) ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured,

and that any property and equipment owned or used by the District is properly protected and maintained

f) ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-teams, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-teams. This should normally be one of the District's Trustees. This sub-team Chair role title is Sub-Team Leader (see the Teams Table in Chapter 16).

g) ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the District Trustee Board

h) appoint any co-opted members of the District Trustee Board

i) ensure transparency of operation, including:

- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as appropriate and as appointed by the District Scout Council at their AGM
- prepare and approve the District Trustees' Annual Report which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer
- present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the District Scout Council for their consideration at the District's AGM
- following the District AGM, ensure that a copy of the District Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is filed as described in 5e.2.1.2

j) take responsibility for the District's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it may at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor

k) individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate District Trustee Board business

l) put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the District Scout Council appropriate persons to be appointed members of the District Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer. Vacancies for appointed Trustees only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed or re-selected after years 1 and 2).

m) where staff are employed:

• act as a responsible employer in accordance with Scouts' values and relevant legislation
• ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated
• ensure that appropriate specific personnel insurance is in place

5c.2.6.5
A District Trustee Board may create sub-teams it deems necessary to support its governance function. The District Trustee Board must ensure that for any sub-team it appoints:
a) its purpose is governance focused and not operational
b) its members are agreed and approved by the District Trustee Board
c) the District Chair has right of attendance
d) the District Lead Volunteer has right of attendance

5c.2.6.6
Sub-team members are not District Trustees unless they are already members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.6.7
All sub-team members must be recorded on the membership system.

5c.2.6.8
To support effective governance and share good practice, the District Chair and Treasurer should create a support network amongst the Group Chairs and Group Treasurers of the District.

5c.2.7 District Scout Council - Conduct of meetings
5c.2.7.1
The District Scout Council meets at their AGM (see 5c.2.5).
5c.2.7.2
It would be unusual for there to be additional meetings of the District Scout Council. This is because the primary task of the District Scout Council is to appoint the District Trustee

Board. If members resign from the District Trustee Board, Rule 16.9.2.2 must be followed,
thus rendering an additional District Scout Council meeting unnecessary.

5c.2.7.3
A District Scout Council meeting should normally be convened with at least four weeks' notice. A meeting may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least three quarters of the members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.7.4
District Scout Council meetings are chaired by the District Chair. If the Chair is unable to be present, the Chair may appoint a delegate to chair a meeting of the District Scout Council subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the District Scout Council members present.

5c.2.7.5
Only District Scout Council members, as defined in Rule 5c.2.4.2, may vote in District Scout Council meetings.

5c.2.7.6
The quorum for a District Scout Council meeting is agreed by the District Scout Council at their AGM (see 5c.2.5.3(a)).
If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the District Scout Council, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

5c.2.7.7
Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

5c.2.7.8

To discharge their responsibilities, the District Scout Council may meet by video conference as well as (or instead of) face to face when agreed by the District Chair. The District Scout Council must not 'meet' using any indirect process, such as email. At any meeting which is not fully in person, there must be an online poll or other electronic method of counting votes.

5c.2.7.9
All meetings of the District Scout Council, whether face-to-face or otherwise, must be properly recorded and minuted.

5c.2.8 District Trustee Board - Conduct of meetings
5c.2.8.1
Meetings of the District Trustee Board should be convened on at least two weeks' notice. Meetings may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least half of the members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.8.2
District Trustee Board meetings are chaired by the District Chair. If the District Chair is unable to be present at a meeting, the District Trustee Board may choose a member to act as chair for the duration of the meeting of the District Trustee Board subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

5c.2.8.3
Only members of a District Trustee Board as defined in 5b.3.3 may vote in its meetings.

5c.2.8.4
The quorum for a meeting of a District Trustee Board is one third of the Trustees (ex officio plus appointed plus co-opted) plus one [round down if necessary]. So, a Trustee Board with 10 members would have a quorum of four. And a Trustee Board with six members would have a quorum of three. For any sub-teams of the District Trustee Board, the quorum for each sub-team must be set by the District Trustee Board, based on the size of the

sub-team and the complexity of its task(s).
If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the District Trustee Board, or a sub-team, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

5c.2.8.5
Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by the Trustees present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

5c.2.8.6
To fulfil their responsibilities, the District Trustee Board may meet by video conference or in person, as determined by the District Chair. This includes 'hybrid' meetings, where some Trustees are present at an agreed location while others participate remotely via phone or video.

5c.2.8.7
Where urgent matters arise between scheduled meetings of the District Trustee Board and if it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the Trustee Board, electronic voting (such as email) may be used for decision making provided the District Chair deems it appropriate.
For such decisions, a minimum of 75% approval from the Trustees is required [the 'rounding' guidance from 5c.2.8.4 also applies in this case]. The results of the vote must be reported to, and recorded in, the minutes of, the next District Trustee Board meeting.

Financial Review 2025

These accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts & Payments basis, which is consistent with previous years.

The major part of our income is derived from the subscriptions we raise from our Groups using the annual census return before paying County the Capitation fee so that in 2025 there was a deficit of £14,014.66 a significant difference from a surplus of £4,357.95 in 2024.

The investment account run via **The Scout Association** was closed due to poor administration by the investment managers involved. So, we only now receive interest on our current account with **CAF Bank** at £72.39. We will now have to consider opening an investment account to invest the proceeds from the sale of **Moreton Hall**, see later.

As Trustees we have agreed not to pass on the full amount of the increases made by County on the Capitation fees but our **District Commissioner** has always asked all Groups to carefully consider the level of subscriptions charged in future as we might not be able to contain these increases in future years.

When a Group closes any monies left over become part of the District's funds but we are also liable for any losses too.

Diane Rogers continues to manage the supply of badges to the District, she does an excellent job in doing so. She does create a surplus and made a donation of £116.50 down from £250 in 2024.

Events & **Groups** show the finance of the sections where District has been involved including District Events as well as showing the income and expenditure for the **Explorer** sections.

Excalibur started the year with a bank balance of £2,484.80 and during the year their income totalled £2,575.00 and expenses were £2,404.93 creating a small surplus of £170.07 and giving a year-end balance of £2,654.87.

Apollo started the year with a bank balance with District of £3,883.52 but opened their own bank account with Lloyds during the year but before this was in place, we received on their behalf an income of £3,187.50 which included a £3,000 grant they secured from **'Blackbaud'** against which there were expenses where we paid £2,201.41. We transferred two amounts of £3,535.97 and £1,272.64 totalling £4,808.61 to close their account with us. This explains part of the large District deficit as the net effect on these accounts was a reduction of £3,822.52.

For the trip to **Lochernhead,** the finance was operated separately from District. However, before this could be set up, we paid a deposit of £1,433.25 but have since agreed to allow this as part of District funding of the event particularly as we did show a surplus last time we visited.

In summary we started the year with funds of £38,997.96 which included £642 in Restricted Funds, £3,883.52 **Apollo** and £2,484.80 **Excalibur** so the **General Fund** was £31,987.64.

In 2025 there was a deficit of £14,014.66 under the **General Fund** and for **Excalibur** there was a small surplus of £170.07.

Given the large deficit some clarification is needed as to why this happened apart from the £3,822.52 transfer of **Apollo** funds mentioned above.

As reported last year the **15th** site was closed in 2019 and was a drain on our resources to the tune of £6,901.49 in the year which included various payments, for more details see the end of this report.

There were unpaid group Capitation Fees amounting to £1,716. We spent £1,125.05 on new kit particularly for **Lochernhead,** £600 to subsidise the trip to **Madagascar** for which we used the reserved funds as that seemed appropriate, £756 on promotional materials used at summer fetes to try and encourage new volunteers with mixed success. The other major item was on training where we spent £1,189.18.

All those costs come to £12,287.72 which is more than the deficit shown above partly because we received a generous legacy of £2,000 from the estate of **Neville Brant**.

Year-end accounts show the position at the end of the year in question in our case 31st December 2025. However, there can be transactions after that date which can significantly later the financial position and so is the position here.

On the 12th January 2026 we completed the sale of the **15th** (Moreton Hall) site in **Eastbury Road** for which the net proceeds received were £520,035.33 which significantly changes our finances.

There were no other significant post-year end entries to be considered.

The accounts are to be scrutinised by **Val Collins**. She has agreed to continue for another year in this role.

Barry Hulin FCII
Treasurer
February 2026

Financial Result

	2024	2025
Excess or (deficit) of Receipts over payments	£ 2,134.71	(£14,014.66)
Balance of funds at 1st January	£36,863.25	£38,997.96
Balance of funds as 31st December	**£38,997.96**	**£24,983.30**

The balance as at 31st December 2025 was made up as follows:

Current Account	£24,983.30
Cash in hand	£ Nil
Total	**£24,983.30**

The current account is held with **CAF Bank Ltd** in Kent. The investment account arranged via **The Scout Association** was closed in 2023 due to poor performance.

The total is made up of the following funds:

Designated Funds

Excalibur Explorers	£ 2,654.87
General Fund	£22,328.43
Kenya Fund Bushey & Oxhey R	£ Closed
Tony Smith Memorial Collection R	£ Closed
Total	**£24,983.30**

The funds marked R were Restricted Funds where the money is committed to be spent on specific items and were used to support a trip to Madagascar.

Assets & Liabilities

	2024	2025
Money Assets		
Cash in hand	£ Nil	£ Nil
Current Account	£38,997.96	£24,983.30
Investment Account	£ Closed	£ Closed
Total	**£38,997.96**	**£24,983.30**
Liabilities Restricted Funds		
Kenya Fund (Bushey & Oxhey)	£ 412.00	£Closed
Tony Smith Memorial Collection	£ 230.00	£Closed
Designated Funds		
Apollo Explorers	£ 3,632.53	(£ Own acct)
Excalibur Explorers	£ 611.02	£ 2,654.87
General Fund	£32,619.70	£ 22,328.43
Total	**£36,863.25**	**£24,983.30**

Notes:
When a Group closes or merges **The Scout Association** 'POR" gives District the responsibility for their assets and liabilities. More information is given elsewhere but included here we should include the land, buildings and contents of the **15th Scout Group** that closed in 2019. This site was a drain on our resources but we engaged agents to find a buyer and we finally sold the site on 12th January 2026

The **22nd Watford South Group** closed and I am still trying to establish details of their bank account and the amount of any residual funds.

The **72nd** closed some time ago and there is a garage divided into 2 behind the **Trinity Methodist Church** Whippendell Road Watford. I have gained access and am arranging for **The Woodcraft Folk** to help clear the area, move the **Girl Guide** contents from the left side to their own right side so **TWF** can use that left side of the building to store their tents.

We should also note that we own a minibus for use by Groups; **LT59RTV Citreon Relay** 15-seater 2009 bought 18th November 2011. The last valuation for this vehicle was £4,000 but is probably worth much less now.

Notes to receipts

	2024	2025
1. **Subscriptions**	£40,170.00	£47,124.00

We pay Capitation to County based on the annual census return which showed 683 in 2024 and 714 in 2025. We charged £66 and paid £63.50 in 2025 as against £60 and £52.50 in 2024.

We are liable to County for Capitation whether or not we have collected the money from our Groups. There was a shortfall of £810 in 2024 and a further shortfall of £1,716 in this year where one Group did not pay the full amount in 2024 or any amount in 2025.

2. Sections/Events

Beaver Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ Nil	£ 4.50
Scout Section	£ 168.00	£ 18.00
District Events	£ 564.51	£ 1,265.42
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 9,895.50	£ 3,187.50
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 2,677.50	£ 2,575.00
Total	**£13,305.51**	**£ 7,050.42**

3. Miscellaneous

Neville Brant Legacy	£ Nil	£ 2,000.00
CAF Bank account interest	£ 81.11	£ 72.39
XMAS Charity Collection	£ 368.22	£ Nil
Herts Lottery	£ 45.76	£ 45.76
Miscellaneous	£ Nil	£ 145.00
Total	**£ 495.09**	**£ 2,263.15**

Notes to payments

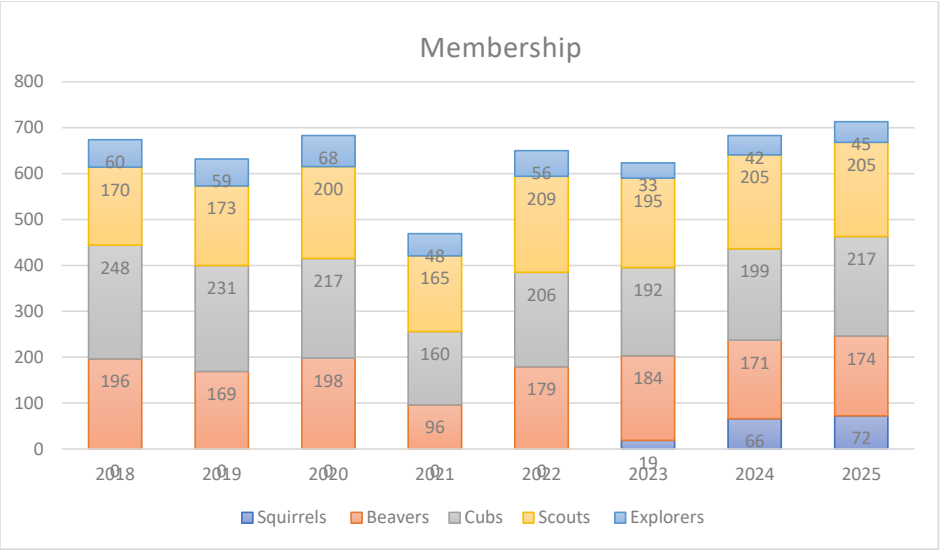
	2024	2025
1. Event Expenses		
Beaver Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ Nil	£ 123.00
Scout Section	£ 97.75	£ Nil
District	£ 1,837.25	£ 1,517.05
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 9,644.51	£ 7,010.02
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 803.72	£ 2,404.93
Madagascar	£ Nil	£ 600.00
Total	**£ 12,383.23**	**£11,655.00**

Note
That under the District item we paid a deposit of £1,433.25 for **Lochenhead**. The accounts for this trip are to be operated separately from District. We agreed not to claim that amount back.

2. Administration		
Insurance	£ 331.20	£ 77.20
Bank Charges	£ 60.00	£ 60.00
Data Protection Registration	£ 75.00	£ Nil
Website & email server	£ 37.95	£ Nil
Training	£ 51.00	£1,189.18
Badges	£ 66.11	£ 87.20
Lottery	£ 20.28	£ 20.28
Promotion	£ Nil	£ 756.00
Kit	£ Nil	£1,125.05
Total	**£ 641.54**	**£3,314.91**

3. Group Payments		
15th	£ Nil	£6,901.49
Totals	**£ Nil**	**£6,901.49**

Membership



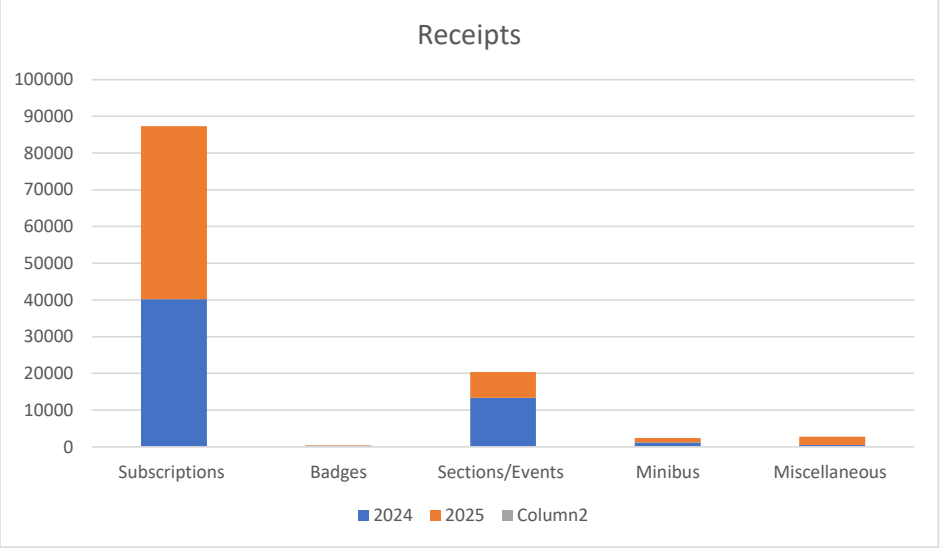
The figures are taken from the annual census return we make to The Scout Association on which the capitation fees are paid.

For this year there were 72 Squirrels, 174 Beavers, 217 Cubs, 205 Scouts and 45 Explorers giving a total of 7133 up from 683 in 2024.

As a matter of interest for the current census the figures show 80 Squirrels, 183 Beavers, 238 Cubs 199 Scouts and 64 Explorers giving a grand total of 764 for which I will send invoices calculated at £70 per young person giving a total income of £53,480 against a bill from County amounting to £49,278.

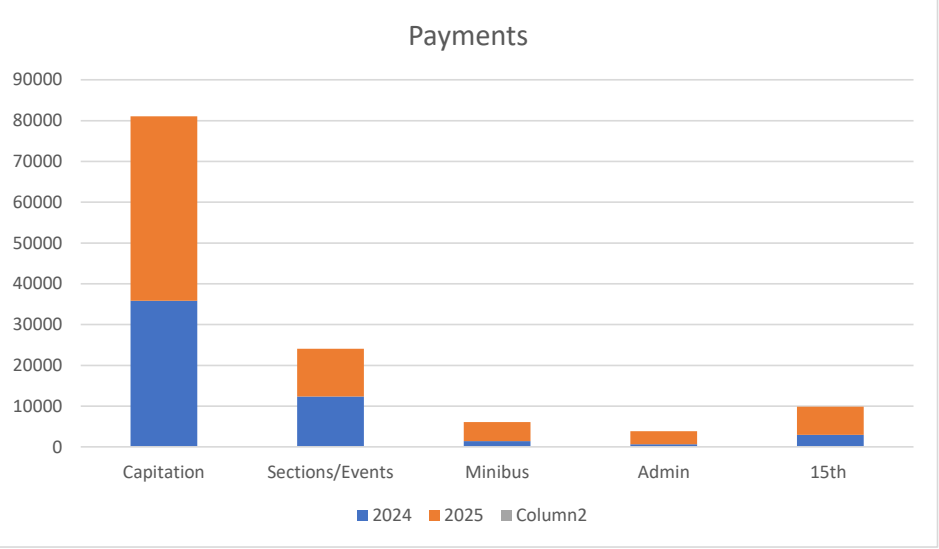
Receipts

	2024	2025
Subscriptions see note 1	£40,170.00	£47,124.00
Badge Secretary	£ 250.00	£ 116.50
Sections/Events see note 2	£13,305.51	£ 7,050.42
District Minibus	£ 1,159.20	£ 1,220.00
Miscellaneous see note 4	£ 495.09	£ 2,263.15
Total Receipts	**£55,379.80**	**£57,774.07**



Payments

	2024	2025
Capitation to County see note 1	£35,812.05	£45,275.50
Sections/Events see note 4	£12,383.23	£11,655.00
Minibus LT59RTV	£ 1,448.01	£ 4,641.83
Administration see note 5	£ 641.54	£ 3,314.91
15th Maintenance et al	£ 2,960.26	£ 6,901.49
Total Payments	**£53,245.09**	**£71,788.73**



Moreton Hall

This continued to be a drain on our resources although we reduced the buildings insurance to cover demolition costs only as we would not rebuild in the event of damage. This reduced the premium payable.

The gas was turned off for safety and insurance purposes, we were paying a standing charge but had the service cut off to avoid further bills. We are still paying water rates **Castle Water** which are considerable and having challenged them about this found out that the rates payable were based on the rateable value of the property and NOT the amount of use which was negligible. The complications and cost to have the system cut off seemed too onerous bearing in mind we were hoping to sell the site so we did not proceed with that and have recently received a further bill for £469.21 for the past 6 months, to be paid in 2026.

I continued to visit the site most weeks removing and sorting the contents until access was denied to me.

Neo Moise was very active before standing down as a trustee and had discussions with three estate agents with a view to selling the site. This we finally achieved on 12th January 2026 when the site was sold to **Morton Hall Sports Complex Ltd** at a total price of £520,035.33 including interest. The estate agent's fees were £10,920 and the legal fees £3,300 leaving the sales proceeds at £520,035.33.

The other costs in the year included insurance at £254.00, further legal fees of £4,048.20, £2,100 for a Section 119 report, £54.44 **British Gas**, and **Castle Water** £445.85 for water & sewerage rates.

We now need to decide how to best use these funds for the future of the District.

District Lead Volunteer's Report: Chris Turnbull

2025 – what a year. We started by muddling through with the new adult membership system. It was strange, worked differently, and started the year with more bugs than you could count. Of course, it made us work differently. Gradually, we learnt to navigate around it. None of us has mastered everything; like all systems, we have learnt what we need, and the rest is a mystery.

The 2025 census came round. Watford South's numbers were higher than the previous year and, of course, it also reflected the new Squirrel section numbers (shown below). With 2026, we should celebrate being one of the few districts in Hertfordshire which has continued to grow. But we shouldn't be complacent, as our waiting lists are growing too.

	2024		2025		2026	
	Units	Members	Units	Members	Units	Members
Squirrels	4	66	5	72	5	80
Beavers	11	171	11	174	11	183
Cubs	11	199	11	217	11	238
Scouts	10	205	10	205	11	199
Explorers	2	42	2	45	3	64
Network		1		1		22
Youth Total		684		714		786
Adult team members		140		155		234*

**May now include non-members needing disclosures.*

Gradually, district events are returning, but many are still struggling through a lack of volunteers to organise them. However, things are afoot to build a selection of age group leads (ADCs in old money). Many events went on in 2025 despite this, and I would like to thank everyone who helped. However, I would be wrong not to mention the small trip to Lochearnhead Scout Station and to thank all the volunteers who helped keep me going when I ran out of steam. The young people want to go back, and we are booked to return in 2028, so by this time next year we will be well into planning. This time, however, I will have some experienced station people.

It would be remiss of me to not mention team member exhaustion. Many of our Scout volunteer teams are quite stretched. Either because the volunteer teams in the groups working with the young people need more help or because treasurer, chair, and secretary roles are vacant. We need to continue looking for volunteers to help, so remember: “It’s only two hours a week”, and we can teach you.

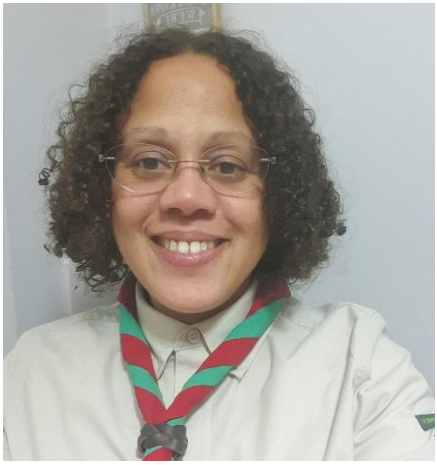
We should also mention that the district team is short of a number of roles, including trustees, a treasurer, a secretary, and some more general trustees. We need skills instructors too, so can you paddle a canoe, walk up mountains, shoot with a bow and arrow or air rifle, or maybe throw a tomahawk (accuracy isn’t always needed)? If so, we need you too. We will supply the training in many of these instances.

That leaves me to thank Sam Shepherd for keeping me on the straight and narrow, Barry Hulin for keeping great accounts in 2025 (he has since stood down), Toby and Ryan for picking up anything I threw their way, and Jack Jarman for handling all the challenging conversations around safeguarding.

2026 has had some great events for young people so far, and we are just past halfway. So, if you are off to camp or having a breather, have a great summer, and let's continue to build the teams in the months to come.



District Chair's Report: Sam Shepherd



Another year seems to have flown by in Watford South.

On my own personal Scouting journey, I've gone from volunteering with a Squirrel Drey at my local Scout group to becoming a Beaver Leader. These youth-facing roles within Scouting have given me valuable perspective on the challenges that our volunteers face each week, but also just how rewarding Scouting can be for us all.

As volunteers, we all know how difficult it is to find enough hours in the day to do everything we'd like to do. With that in mind, in my role as District Chair, I set myself one main goal for 2025, to finalise the sale of Moreton Hall.

As many of you know, our former District Youth Lead, Neo Moise, had set the ball rolling on the sale before handing the project over to me when he moved on to become County Youth Lead.

Over the past year, my focus has been on seeing that process through. There were curveballs along the way, but thanks to the commitment of all parties involved, and the support of my fellow trustees, we continued to make steady progress.

By the end of December 2025, we had agreed to exchange contracts in the New Year. Jumping ahead, am delighted to report that the sale was successfully completed on 12th January 2026.

With the sale having gone through, a new chapter has opened for the District. We now have an exciting opportunity to consider how the proceeds from the sale can best support Scouting in Watford South for many years to come. That is why, at this year's AGM on Saturday 18th July 2026, we are asking all our stakeholders to take part in a consultation on how those funds should be invested.

The decisions we make together have the potential to shape the future of Scouting across our District, and your views will play an important part in that process. I look forward to collaborating with you all as we take this next exciting step for Watford South.

District Youth Lead's Report: Toby Hancock



Since taking on the role of District Youth Lead in April 2025, it has been a privilege to meet young people and volunteers from across Watford South. By visiting section meetings, camps and district events, I have been able to hear directly from our members about what they enjoy in Scouting and how we can continue to develop a truly youth-shaped programme.

It has been fantastic to see so many young people taking part in opportunities both within the District and further afield, including our successful return to Lochearnhead Scout Station for the first time since 2019. We have also begun preparations for the 2027 World Scout Jamboree and Haarlem Jamborette, with congratulations to the two young people selected to represent the District at the Jamboree.

This year has also seen positive progress in strengthening our future. Work is underway to reintroduce a structured Young Leader training programme, while Harlequin Network has been successfully relaunched to provide more opportunities for young adults to stay involved in Scouting.

Looking ahead, my focus will remain on increasing youth participation in decision-making, supporting leaders to deliver youth-shaped Scouting, and encouraging greater engagement with District events and opportunities.

Finally, I would like to thank Ryan Perrin for his work as deputy Youth Lead, the District Leadership Team, and all our volunteers for their support throughout the year. Most importantly, thank you to the young people of Watford South, whose enthusiasm and ideas continue to shape the future of Scouting in our District.

District Safeguarding Lead Report: Jack Jarman



This has been a busier year from a safeguarding perspective, with a number of cases being raised across the District. Each concern has been worked through thoroughly, following the appropriate processes and with the necessary support and guidance sought throughout. It is reassuring that all cases have reached positive outcomes, demonstrating the commitment and professionalism of our volunteers in responding appropriately when concerns arise.

It has been particularly encouraging to see safeguarding concerns and queries being raised by a wide range of groups across the District. This demonstrates that our safeguarding culture is developing positively, with volunteers feeling confident about who to speak to and how to raise concerns. This willingness to ask questions, seek advice and act early is a key part of keeping young people safe.

It is also reassuring that, where the nature of an incident has required it, concerns have been appropriately escalated directly to The Scouts'

national safeguarding team. This shows that our processes are understood and that volunteers are confident in recognising when additional expertise and support are needed.

Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. Thank you to all volunteers across Watford South for continuing to be vigilant, for asking questions when something does not feel right, and for maintaining the high standards of care and safety that our young people deserve.

By continuing to work together, follow our processes and put young people first, we can ensure that Scouting across our District remains safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Apollo ESU AGM Report: Adam Greenstreet

It has been a steady year at Apollo. The main highlight was last summer's Lilo and Stitch camp, organised alongside Coventry's Trident ESU, in which a contingent of both units met outside Paris for water sports, Scouting activities, and Disneyland Paris. Herts Monopoly Challenge also continues to be hugely popular, and we were again able to send three teams to the competition this January.

Our weekly meetings continue to be well attended, with a programme featuring core Scouting skills, competition evenings, and evenings planned and run by the explorers. As usual, youth-led Scouting is at the heart of everything we do.

We have continued supporting Lees Wood as crew rotation every seven weeks, for which David Stein deserves many thanks.

We have awarded 3 Chief Scout Platinum awards and are continuing to help young people work through both their Chief Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

I am very grateful for my leadership team and the number of hours they commit to running the section and supporting the young people, particularly over the past 12 months where university has prevented me from committing my full energy to the unit. A particular mention goes to Illa Uka for her continued bookkeeping, without which the unit would struggle to function.

Harlequin Network AGM Report: Adam Greenstreet

Harlequin has enjoyed a busy year. We have 23 members on our books and have regularly had meeting attendances above 10. These meetings included; air rifles, bouldering, wide games in Cassiobury Park, Build a Bear, a pub quiz, and a Christmas meal.

We have also participated in larger events, sending two teams to Hertfordshire Scouts Monopoly Challenge (1st and 6th place), Herts Peak Assault (1st Place), and Southern 50 (mostly completed). In addition to this, there have also been a number of self-led camps, including crewing at Lees and Tolmers, Easter Camp at Ferny Crofts, and our activity camp at Paccar.

Network in Watford South has gone from strength to strength in the last 12 months, and with discussions ongoing with District about a dedicated Network bank account and minibus permits, it is a very exciting time to be 18-24 in our district. I am confident that the coming year will be even better under the change of leadership coming in September.



16th Watford South Explorer Unit: Saad Saeed

2025 marked an important milestone for the 16th Watford South Explorer Unit. It was officially established in September 2025 and has since grown into a thriving section with around 10 Explorers.

Throughout the year, Explorers took part in a varied and challenging programme designed to develop practical skills, confidence and independence. During the autumn term they worked towards the Money Skills Activity Badge, completing a range of activities focused on budgeting, finance and funding.

They also developed their navigation skills through map reading sessions, culminating in a night-time orienteering activity in St Albans. They also took part in a rifle shooting activity, allowing members to experience a new challenge in a safe and supervised environment.

The Explorer Unit is linked with 16th Watford South Scout Group, with a Partnership Agreement currently being developed, while continuing to report directly to Watford South District.

As the unit continues to establish itself, we look forward to building on this strong foundation and providing even more opportunities for young people to challenge themselves, develop new skills and enjoy adventure through Scouting.

District Contacts & Vacancies

Name	Role
Sam Shepherd sam.shepherd@wsscouts.org	**District Chair**
Christine Turnbull chris.turnbull@wsscouts.org	**District Volunteer Lead**
Vacant	**District Secretary**
Vacant	**District Treasurer**
Toby Hancock toby.hancock@wsscouts.org	**District Youth Lead** **Interim District Bookkeeper**
Jack Jarman Jack.jarman@wsscouts.org	**Safeguarding Trustee**
Robert Greenstreet rgreenstreet2007@gmail.com	**PR & Media**
Vacant	**Parent Representative**
Vacant	**Property & Portfolio**

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@Watfordsouthscouts

Twitter:
@Watsthscouts

If you have any pictures of scouting events that can be posted on social media or included in newsletters, please email them to: socialmedia@wsscouts.org.uk.
Please ensure you have correct permissions of all young people in the pictures.



