

1st Lower Morden Scout Group

Annual Report & Accounts 2023

AGM & Annual Report

January – December 2023

1st Lower Morden Scout Group
Registered Charity No 303787

Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

CONTENTS

Officers/Leaders	Page 3
Minutes of 2023 AGM	Page 4
Chair's Report	Page 6
Income & Expenditure Account Summary	Page 7
Treasurer's Report	Page 10
Section Reports	Page 11
GSL's Report	Page 14

Section Meeting Times

Beavers
(6 – 8 years) Tuesday 5.45 – 6.45 pm

Cubs
(8 - 10½ years) Tuesday 7.00 – 8.15 pm

Scout Troop
(10½ - 14 years) Thursday 7.15 – 9.00 pm

Any child wishing to join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts should have their parent/guardian contact one of the Leaders.

Officers/Leaders

Group Scout Leader	Andrew Hayward
Beaver Leadership Team	Nicky Hayward Tracy Eaton Louise Ephgrave Grace File James Pavett-Downer
Cub Scout Leadership Team	Andrew Hayward Peter Mead Bob McNally Delene De Haas Chris Marshall Grace File Holly Wright
Scout Leadership Team	David Williams Bob McNally Delene De Haas Jude Faulkner (Explorer Helper)

Group Trustee Board

Chair	David Collins
Secretary	Rosie Wills
Treasurer	Martin Knight
Other members	Rachel Sibson Brian Penders

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc
Blackheath London Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Auditor:

Rayvathi Katzanos

Scout Association Group Registration No: 46746

Charity Registration No: 303787

The Officers are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The Accounts have been drawn up on an income and expenditure basis.

1 st LOWER MORDEN SCOUT GROUP
Charity Number 303787

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 7 p.m.

Present: Group Executive Committee, Group Leaders, Parents and Friends. Michelle Baker
– District Commissioner

Meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

1. Welcome

Andrew opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone. Andrew read a poem out to all.
Choose adventure. Choose skills. Choose being part of the world's biggest family. Choose the smell of wood smoke in your clothes. Choose stupid jokes around the campfire. Choose teamwork. Choose looking after each other. Choose huge smiles at the end of the day. Choose scaring yourself, challenging yourself and going further. Choose meeting incredible people who are nothing like you. Choose doing things you never thought you could. Choose your future. Choose Scouts. Choose the 1st Lower Morden.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Terrie Jerrom, Jeff Walters and Martin Knight.

3. Minutes of AGM 2022.

Approval - These were accepted as a true record.
Matters Arising – No matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Please see a copy of the Treasurer's report in the Annual Report emailed out for this AGM, Accounts pages 7, 8, 9 and 10. The accounts have been audited and approved. Gift Aid has brought in £1426.95 which was highlighted from the accounts.

5. Outgoing Chair's Report

Please see a copy of the Group Chair's report in the Annual Report emailed out for this AGM, page 8.

David Collins thanked Terrie for everything she has done and for her help over the last 19 years.

6. Section Reports

Individual reports for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. Again, if you have any queries on these reports, please ask the Section Leader.

7. Group Scout Leader's Report

Andrew thanked everyone for coming to the AGM Meeting and summarised the report.

Andrew mentioned that the group continued to grow and that numbers in all sections were very healthy.

Andrew thanked David Williams for all his help, time and effort on the HQ grounds. He mentioned that the rifle range is now complete and looking forward to the Scouts using this, Andrew and Peter have also achieved their Air Rifle Tutor Qualification.

Andrew thanked the Leaders, the Executive Committee (Now Trustee Committee), all volunteers, parents and of course our young people. Andrew congratulated Grace and Holly on completing their Young Leader Scheme. And he also congratulated Delene on completing her Leader training.

Andrew presented certificates, neckerchief and badges for the 'Never Give Up' award, recognising their resilience, tenacity and courage.

8. Group Scout Leader's Nomination of Group Chairman

Andrew nominated David Collins and was not needed to be seconded.

9. New Group Chair's Report

David Collins thanked everyone for coming to the AGM. He thanked all Leaders and volunteers for their time. He mentioned that as a parent the time Leaders and volunteers give up to support and organise all the events and activities for our young people has been invaluable and very much appreciated. David encouraged parents to come forward and offer some of their time to volunteer with Scouts and volunteer their skills if they wished. David thanked Terrie Jerrom again for her 19 years as Group Chair and thanked Donna Murray for her time as Group Secretary.

10. Election of Group Officers and Group Executive Committee Members

Treasurer - Martin Knight

Secretary – Rosie Wills

Parent Representative - Rachel Sibson. Brian Penders.

GSL's Representative – TBC

Proposed – Andrew Hayward

Seconded – David Collins

11. Appointment of Group Auditor

Rayvathi Katzanas has been appointed Group Auditor.

12. Guest Speaker

Andrew introduced Michelle Baker and thanked Michelle for her support and help with Beavers.

Michelle thanked everyone for welcoming her into 1st Lower Morden and has really enjoyed her time with the Beavers. Michelle and Nicki (Roo) presented the Chief Scout's Bronze Award certificates and badges to Beavers who have achieved this by completing all of the challenge awards throughout the year.

13. Any Other Business

The New Constitution was accepted.

The Meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.

At the end a BBQ had been organised for everyone.

NOTE

In June 2024, it was confirmed that HM King Charles III would become the Scouts' Patron. This continues a long tradition of the monarch giving their patronage. This dates back to 1912 when Scouts' was granted it's Royal Charter and HM King George V became our first Patron.

Report from David Collin, Trustee Board Chair:

When I stepped into the role as Chair at last year's AGM, I thought I knew from my time as a parent and from being on the trustee board how passionate the team of volunteers and trustees at 1st Lower Morden were. This year however, I have been exposed to even more of the impressive work that our volunteers do to make everything that is '1st Lower Morden' possible.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. As a parent of three boys who are in the Group/troop, I know only too well how lucky they are to have been exposed to the range of opportunities, activities and experiences they have. As they excitedly get changed on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday night for their meetings, I can often take for granted that they will be well cared for, exposed to new opportunities and have a great evening. But this does not happen by chance.

I want to thank the growing team of volunteers who work tirelessly to create and deliver exciting and innovative activities. Indeed, this Group pushes its expectations and abilities year by year. Rifle Shooting is now an activity we can offer at Bow Lane. This is not a given. It is possible because everyone involved gives up their time to make your children's experiences the quality they are. I am proud that all our sections are led by people who selflessly provide opportunities and encourage our children to have the highest aspirations and hopes for themselves.

As a Group, I am also incredibly proud of our engagement in the wider scouting network. This has been through engagement in competitions, district events and through additional leadership roles that our volunteers (within our Group) have taken on to make scouting possible for others too. All this does not come without sacrifice, and I want to thank everyone involved in the leadership and running of all our sections for all that they do.

Beyond the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer units, the team also take fantastic care of our wonderful facilities at Bow Lane. Careful management of our resources means that our equipment stores are full to bursting, we have been able to lead on some larger maintenance projects and our site remains in amazing condition, thanks mainly to the work by David Williams.

The success however of the 1st Lower Morden is a team effort and this requires us, as parents and carers, to play our part in the continued development of the Group. This can be from timely payment of subs, gift aid declarations to boost the revenue received, regular attendance and support at weekly meetings and a commitment to the additional events and activities offered. We as families must give our team of volunteers our full support. I know that you will have read this in advance, but I will share at the AGM on 2nd July two practical ways in which we can or have demonstrated this.

As we close for the summer, I look back with an immense sense of pride that I am part of this scouting family and look forward with excitement for the scouting journey ahead. I would like to thank Andrew as GSL for his continued dedication as he leads the Group, David for the time, energy and commitment he brings to us and all the volunteers, without whom, this would not be possible.

As I close, I would finally ask us all to think about what we can do to support, volunteer or help. Getting more involved in scouting at 1st Lower Morden gives back more than you could ask. Why not consider it this year?

David Collins, Trustee Board Chair

1st Lower Morden Scout Group Year ending 31st December 2023

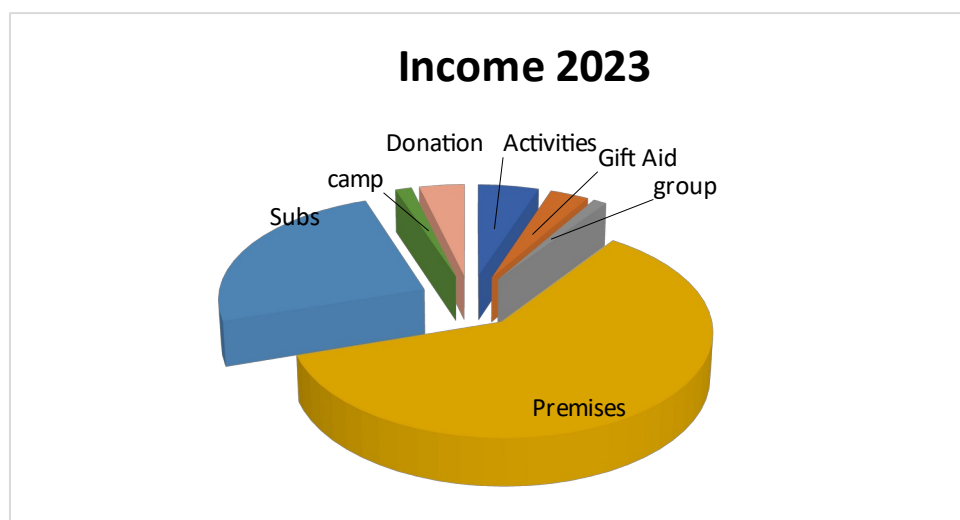
Brought forward from 2022

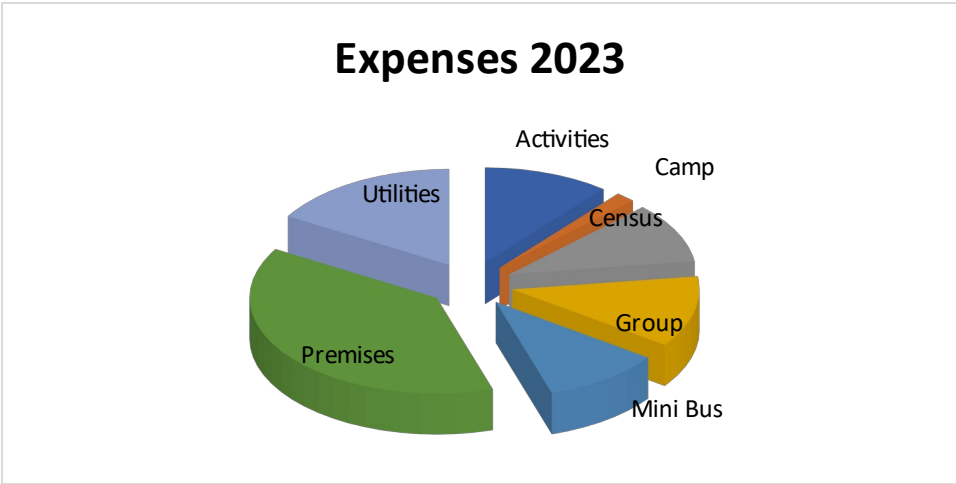
25504.79

INCOME		
AGM	AGM income	184.20
Beavers	Pirate Sleepover	255.00
Camp	France 2024	600.00
Cubs	Cub Day 2023	105.00
	Cubs July 2023	552.00
Donations	Davies Foundation	1000.00
	Misc	644.63
Gift Aid		1426.95
Grants	Leslie Sell Charitable Trust	400.00
Group	Scarves	10.00
Investiture Fees		200.00
Jack Petchey Award		300.00
Premises	Bow Lane Rental	23640.00
	Contribution towards Plumbing	450.00
	Nursery Phone	198.23
	Outside Rental	1230.00
Scouts	Bowling	222.00
	Litter Picking	600.00
	RIB 2024	150.00
	RIB	330.00
Subscriptions		10242.50
	Total Income	42740.51
EXPENSES		

AGM		314.76
Beavers	Badges	378.31
	Misc	185.05
	Pirate Sleepover	255.00
Camp	February 2023	584.10
Census		3471.00
Christingle		189.85
Coronation		99.56
Cubs	Activity Day	100.00
	Badges	495.67
	July 2023	162.48
	Misc	629.00
Grant	Leslie Sell	400.00
Group	Badges	383.62
	Flagpole Items	109.51
	Games	356.46
	Misc	951.59
	Mower, Strimmer	122.00
	Orienteering	89.50
	Photographs	56.28
	Printing Costs	182.19
	Tents	836.83
	Uniform	91.75
Jack Petchey Award		368.45
Minibus	Fuel	169.74
	Misc	30.00
	Motor Insurance	1344.97
	Repairs	1958.80
Premises	BBQ	595.00
	Cleaning	246.85
	Cooker	38.06
	Den, Rifle Range	828.96
	Drains	3828.00

	Gardening, Plants etc.	166.54
	Insurance	2731.61
	Intruder Alarm System	1655.16
	Kitchen Ceiling Installation	800.00
	Misc	459.63
	Outside lights	476.40
	Plumbing	394.80
	Ramps	239.29
	Stand-By-Fire Equip	244.54
	Tree Removal	348.00
Scouts	Badges, Woggles	266.08
	Bowling	256.65
	Incident Hike	121.11
	Litter Picking	111.51
	RIB	150.00
	Misc	315.71
Utilities	British Telecom	533.67
	Electricity Octopus	2785.21
	E-On	1389.86
	SES Water	914.00
Website Costs		240.00
	Total Expenses	34453.11
	Closing Balance	33792.19





Report from the Group Treasurer Year Ending December 2023

The Group’s Annual Report and Accounts are presented on an income and expenditure basis. A copy of the audited accounts is included in the AGM Report. There are no financial issues arising from the accounts.

Rayvathi Katzanos independently audits the accounts. We are grateful for her carrying out this work voluntarily.

We received £1426.95 in Gift Aid from HMRC this Financial Year. We would like to thank all those who have completed the necessary Gift Aid form. If you have not already completed a form and are able to do so, can you please reconsider as this brings in a substantial amount to the Group? If you require a form, please contact your Group Leader.

Thank you to all the Officers and Leaders for their support during the last year.

Martin Knight, Group Treasurer

REPORTS FROM SECTIONS

BEAVERS

Well, 2023 was quite a year!

First, I want to thank Michelle Baker (our DC) as without her there would not be a report to write as Beavers may have had to close in my absence.

Michelle ran both her own and our colony amazingly and I was so proud of what the Beavers achieved while I was away. Apparently, I did have a say in what they did and was helping with programme planning from my bed in St Helier's ITU, but I have absolutely no recollection of it, and I am sure she may well have removed some of my madder drug fuelled ideas!

Anyway, I came back to a colony of beavers with armful of badges and happy smiling faces. Here's a list of what they covered when I was away: Personal Challenges, junk modelling, pancake night, Mother's Day gifts, games nights, health & fitness challenges, book readers badge, Bug Sports Day, football, soft archery, wiggle cars, drama sessions, space badge, trip to Pets At Home, creating a comic strip, putting up tents, the annual Christingle and the amazing Pirate Camp.

Thanks to all the Beaver Leaders who with Michelle's guidance kept it all going and to all the other leaders for supporting and covering for Andrew. We wouldn't have got through it without you.

Roo (Nicky Hayward)

Beavers Scout Leader

cubs

The last 12 months have been a very difficult one for the pack because of my health issues, but they were still very busy and active working towards many badges.

Following on from last year's report we no longer have 50 cubs attending our weekly meetings as most of them are now in Scouts!

We started off 2023 by making junk models with one six making a huge Big Ben – it almost touched the ceiling of the hall! Spring meant District Chess and also St George's Day where we had a very good turnout as the District held its first parade since 2019. Thank you to all those who attended. As we headed into Easter I had the pleasure of awarding 10 Cubs their Chief Scout's Silver Award – the highest award a cub can earn. We took part in Sports Day with several individual placings. As part of their Fire Safety badge, the cubs visited Wimbledon Fire Station and had a fantastic evening being shown around and clambering over the various tenders. We finished off the summer term taking part in the Cub Football with 2 teams where all had a good time and then had a weekend camp at our Group HQ

working on the outdoor part of the programme. We also did some fire lighting and cooked marshmallows over open fires – heaven!

Baggy, Chil & Kaa along with Cobra & Kim looked after things while I had my operation and was going through Chemo and kept the Cubs working towards their activity and challenge badges. I am so grateful to them. I really missed Scouting with the young people, but they kept me up to date with all that was going on.

Our final event was joining in with the other sections at the Group's Christingle Carol Service at St Martin's Church.

In closing I would like to record my thanks to the cubs and their parents and once again to the Cub Leadership Team of Peter (Kaa), Bob (Baggy), Chris (Bandar), Delene (Kim), and Grace (Chil) plus other Group Leaders who joined in with the pack over the course of the last year.

Andrew Hayward (Baloo)

SCOUTS

We currently number 32 Scouts. We had over 40 for some time being the highest sustained amount in 20 years until we sent 7 up to Explorers. The Troop has had a busy year.

The Troop have been making their mark on the District starting off with a win (our first in this event) at the District Scout Quiz - an excellent performance from our clever Troop. We also took part in the Incident Hike in November fielding two teams with the Scouts coming a very respectful second and the second team fifth especially for some it was their first time. Our Christmas Party went well, we had good attendance at the Christingle Service and went bowling before Christmas.

The New Year started off with a day of paintballing at Campaign in Cobham and a random trip out to Krispy Kreme! February saw the Scouts triumph for the 8th time at the Scout Football – now a record for the District. A remarkable achievement.

The following week we held our annual survival camp. This year we headed off to the Natural History Museum, on to Covent Garden for street entertainment and then off to a speedboat zooming down the Thames. On Sunday, the Scouts went swimming before striking camp, and heading home. Pancake evening also took place in February and cake for all on our Leap Year Meeting on 29th February.

St George's Day was well attended, and we had an unprecedented 31 Scouts attending PGL at the end of April. They took part in rafting, problem solving, fencing, climbing. We have just taken part in Sports Day with several medals won and there is a District Scout Skills day planned which will cover compass work, first aid, axes and saws etc so the Scouts have a broad range of activities to try out.

Two scouts went on a County run event to Trooping the Colour (the Colonels Review). We were lucky to be close to the parade ground and had a great view. It is hoped that we can take more scouts / explorers next year.

Coming up is a trip abroad for some of the scouts and explorers and if we can get through the risk assessments and procedures it will be our first trip in France for 5 years. Fingers crossed.

It takes a lot of effort to run a section especially as some members of the team are working and studying full time. My thanks go to Bob (Baggy), Delene (Kim) and Jude who's help, assistance and good humour are invaluable to me. We are an amazing team.

David (Cobra)

Scout Leader

Group Scout Leader's Report

2023 was a year that tried me personally but also tried the group – but as you can see the Group has come through the last 12 months, bigger, better and stronger than before.

I will not go into too much detail, but in February Nicky was taken into hospital seriously ill. Within a week she was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome (a disease where the nerve cells attack each other) and was taken into the ICU. She remained in hospital until mid-July and as you can see has made pretty much a full recovery. This was not guaranteed. Many are left paralysed, and the worst-case scenarios can be fatal. When Nicky came home on 14 July, I then started chemotherapy 4 days later to treat cancerous nodules in my left lung. After 8 rounds of chemo and an operation (to remove part of my lung) I was given the all clear just before Christmas and I am now 6 months into remission.

As you can imagine, Scouting had to take a back seat at times. However, I managed to do what I could and when I could. It kept me sane, occupied and focused. It was a distraction but one I enjoyed and one where I and the rest of the group could continue to make a difference.

The whole Group supported the pair of us in some many ways. The leaders covered meetings, members of the Trustee Board kept me, and the family fed and you, as parents & supporters, were always asking after us. This is something and we will never forget. The love, support, visits, encouragement and prayers really made a difference we wouldn't be here without it. A special thank you should also go to Michelle Baker, our District Commissioner who stepped in and ran Beavers for the Group (and only left when Nicky was well enough to manage on her own) and also supported the rest of the leadership team. You have no idea how much of a difference you made – thank you so much.

But that's enough personal news – what has the Group been up to? In the reports that are featured in this booklet, you will see that all sections have continued to be active. All sections managed exciting outings, activities, residential experiences and inclusive, challenging and rewarding programmes that have enabled our young people to set and achieve new goals, to participate in activities that challenged them to earn the badges that they had worked so far but to also see them develop as they grow after the sections have given them 'Skills For Life'. I am proud to see the young people have grown, become empowered, learnt new skills and built on their knowledge and experience to become more confident, kind, active and thoughtful members of society and our local community.

There have been big developments with regards to The Den, where Phil Dennis from the 6/12th Mitcham played a huge part in turning it into our Shooting Range and we thank him for his time, knowledge and expertise! This also doubles up as a secondary meeting room where we can do the mucky stuff without having to worry about the hall!

The Group continues to offer the best Scouting experience that we can. But we can't do it on our own and this is where you, as a parent or supporter come in. Volunteering has been proved to be good for you (it also looks good on a CV too!). If you would like to join our team and join in the fun, then you would be very welcome. Scouting is going through several changes now and one of them is the volunteering experience. The Association, and us as a Group could do so much more if we had more volunteers. Be it on the uniformed side, helping out at the meetings with the young people, becoming involved on the 'admin' side or helping out with the various projects we have underway. If you can spare the time, anytime, then please make yourself known and come and join us. We're a friendly bunch and we are always on the lookout for new blood! Talking of new blood, we have welcomed Brian & Rosie onto the Trustee Board and Chris, James & Louise have joined us on the leadership front. Welcome!

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the entire leadership team at the 1st Lower Morden. The success of this Group is down to them. We all bring something different to the Group and it is their talents that have made this Group what it is. David continues to ensure the grounds are well kept, maintained, safe and fit for purpose. Just look around you – we are very lucky to have the HQ and grounds we have. So, Nicky, James, Louise, Tracy, Peter, Bob, Delene, Chris, David, Jude & Grace thank you so much for your support, experience, knowledge time, encouragement, patience and understanding.

Likewise, the Group would not be where it is without the continuing support from the Group's Trustee Board – thank you David C, Martin, Rachel, Rosie & Brian. Thanks also should go to their partners and families for their support too.

Finally, a huge thank you should also go to you - the parents, supporters and the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. Without you and your children our hard work would be wasted. Thank you for the privilege of letting us teach, instruct and work with your sons and daughters.

We will ensure that that our young people will continue to "Lead The Way" as the "First Never Follows!"

Andrew Hayward
Group Scout Leader



1st Lower Morden Scout Year ending 31st December 2023

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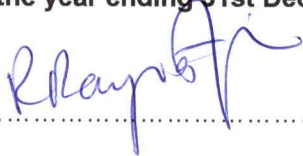
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1st Lower Morden Scout Group Account - REPRESENTED BY

Lloyds Bank	£33,792.19
Uncleared cheques	0.00
Uncleared income	0.00
TOTAL	£33,792.19

I have carried out a review of the Group's Accounts as an Independent Scrutineer.
I am satisfied that the figures shown are in order and I approve the Statement
for the year ending 31st December 2023



01-03-2024

Rayvathi Katzanos

FCCA

Dated