



14th Richmond 'Viking' Scout Boating Centre

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024

From (start date)

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 to end date

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Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **14th Richmond 'Viking' Scout Boating Centre**

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

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Charity's principal address

The Hut
Retreat Road
Richmond upon Thames
T W 9 1 N N

Postcode:

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

All served from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 unless indicated.

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Trevor Gordon Rodger Hall	Centre Manager	
Victor George Griffiths	Vice President	
Patrick Leopold Ducker	Treasurer	
Sian Ann Brightey		
Steven Richard Brightey		
Nicholas John Eaton		
Simon Richard Geoffrey Hall		
Peter Nicholas Hapgood		
Sandra Elizabeth May		To 30 th Sept.
Christopher Theodore Shaw Szyszkiewicz.		

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Maintenance & Construction of boats	Mark Edwards	Bridge Boathouses, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1TH

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	The Centre's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The Centre is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts Groups ad Units.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues	The Centre is a unit of the Richmond upon Thames District and is managed by the Centre Management Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Centre which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.
Policies and procedures adopted for: a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them	<p>The Committee consists of 1 District representative, Centre Manager, Treasurer and Secretary together with appointed boat instructors and other co-opted individuals and meets every 2 months.</p> <p>The Centre Manager is responsible for day-to-day management decisions, any significant decisions regarding financial outlay or centre policy changes would be agreed by a minimum of three members of the Executive committee, including the Centre Manager and Treasurer and reviewed as soon as possible at the next full meeting, where it would have to be agreed by a majority of Trustees.</p> <p>This Centre Management Committee exists to support the Centre Manager in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The maintenance of Centre property; - The raising of funds and the administration of Centre finance; - The insurance of persons, property and equipment; - Centre public occasions; - Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; - Appointing any sub committees that may be required; - Appointing Centre Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.
Risk and Internal Control	<p>The Centre Management Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Centre is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:</p> <p>Damage to the property and equipment. The Centre has sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.</p> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Centre, through the capitation fees paid for through the young people membership, benefits from the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduced income from fund raising. The Centre is primarily reliant upon income from fees and fundraising. The Centre does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of fees to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently, increase the participation from its client base or seek additional funding from the parent Scout District.</p>

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

Reduction in use of Centre. The Centre provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18 within the scout movement and to other voluntary groups/charities in the community. If there was a reduction in use of the Centre as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Centre.

Financial Control. The Centre has in place systems of *internal controls* that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; these include 2 signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

The objectives of the Centre are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

Public benefit statement

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

14th Richmond *Viking* Scout Boating Centre

Annual Report for 2024



Summary

2024 has been a generally good year for activities and our financial state is steady.

Overall, we achieved

- Approx 500 young person boat sessions
 - 1000 adult training boat sessions
- Successful Scout Water Weekend camp, with 200 young people
- Boats out on the river almost every weekday May-Sept
 - Scout outings
 - Bench Blisters (South London club for the legal profession)
 - Areen (corporate sponsors of the Centre)
 - Jubilant Crew (maintenance service and instructor support team)
- Centre in use most weeks
 - Art Class, Filming base for Richmond, foreign youth groups
- Outreach support
 - Special Schools - Bensham Manor School and St Philips School
 - London Youth Rowing
- Our 120-year-old boat Viking back on the water for a record GRR time!!!

Robin Corti

The start of the year was marred by sad passing of Robin Corti our Centre Secretary and regular instructor. Robin was a steady hand at the Centre providing instruction for young people and adults, he also managed all the Scout Adventurous Activity Permit approvals for the entire London SW region. Robin also supported other charity boating groups outside the Scouts and was to be seen regularly in boats on the Thames. He will be sorely missed.



Water Activities: Assessments and training Events

Our evening trips on Jubilant and Skerrys remain popular, and we are normally out on the river with different groups of young people ranging six years old to eighteen. The boats are out on the Thames almost three to four evenings every week from May to August.

Our Associate Member Group – the Scout London Magistrates (Bench Blister Rowing Club) are regular users of our boats when the Scouts are not using them, this along with the Jubilant Crew training keeps our boats out on the river throughout the year.

Boats

We have the use of the Royal Shallop Jubilant, and own Two Thames Watermans Cutters, two Skerrys and two gigs, plus our two motorboats Robin Arundel (the work boat) and Robin Rescue a safety boat. We also support other groups with the loan of our Skerrys for special events.



This Year we re-launched our 120-year-old Ships Lifeboat; VIKING, she had been stored away since before the pandemic. Viking then went on to enter the Great River Race and recorded her fastest ever time for the race.



Adventurous Activity Permits

Our regular instructors include six County Assessors for Pulling and one for Power Boats - between us we have assessed and issued at least five permits for adults and another five for young people to allow water-based Duke of Edinburgh. These all require expert review of the application and logged experience of the leader/candidates to manage the overall safety of the young people in these activities.

Outreach

Over the course of the year, we support groups outside the normal Scout circle with instruction and loan of boats, this includes: Bensham Manor Special School, St Philips Special School and London Youth Rowing.

We also offer our facilities to youth groups from abroad as a base for sport or other activities. One weekend, we filled our centre with Raguebicpica- a Portuguese youth rugby team on their London tour.



Fund Raising

We continue to use the fund-raising potential of our training centre and boating equipment. We currently host an art class, and support several filming events around Richmond. The Centre has also been used by external boating groups e.g. Skerrys4Schools and the local paddle board companies for First Aid and British Rowing coaching courses. We also help the London Youth Rowing -Corporate Skerry race event with the loan of our Skerrys, we get a reasonable donation from the companies involved towards our insurance and maintenance costs.

Repairs and maintenance

Costs of insuring and maintaining our fleet of boats continues to be a large part of our annual expenditure, we try to get as much voluntary help, however, rely on our local boat builders for the specialist tasks. Currently, we have an annual schedule of preventative maintenance to protect the boats from deterioration during the winter months.

Water Weekend

The 14th Richmond Centre organises the Water Weekend 7-9th June, at Thames Young Mariner (TYM) boating Centre in Ham. The event was predictably over-subscribed and received great positive feedback from the young attendees.). We hosted 200 young people and about 60 Leaders and helpers.



The event was centrally run with the District Team doing their usual sterling job, organising the catering and setting up of equipment (the 14th Richmond Centre store provides equipment for several large Scout events).

We had the usual wide range of water activities from raft building, sailing, kayak, open canoes, paddleboarding and rowing. The rowing took up through Teddington with each crew experiencing going up through the lock and back, happily the lock keepers were very obliging.

Great River Race

The end of the Season is marked by the Great River Race. The 14th Richmond Centre organises and runs the camp located at TYM, again with the support of the District team. Most of the Centre boats take part in the race itself. The JUBILANT was crewed a team from St Philips School (raising almost £3000 for Royal Marsden Hospital). We also had crews from our long running sponsor Areen in NAIAD, the Bench Blisters in FAN MAKER and the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers (a London Guild) in GORDON HALL .

This event is good publicity for Richmond Scouts, and another great fund-raising opportunity.



Scout Membership Online System

The Scout membership system was shut down towards the end of 2024, a new, more secure, modern system will be introduced over the beginning of 2025. The change is disruptive, but hopefully the situation will improve in 2025, but... a lot of teething problems are expected.

Plans for 2025

The improved annual Safety inspections and maintenance of the Centre building are now in progress some preventative work on the heating and other services will be done in 2025. We now have a regular cleaner once a week.

We will continue to promote the Scout Centre to film companies, art and exercise classes and to organise the Scout Water Weekend and The Great River Race camping to provide a steady flow of income.

Some updates to our website are in progress to improve online bookings and make the posting of news easier and more dynamic.

2024 is likely to be expensive in terms of boat maintenance and equipment replacement, new oars are being procured. VIKING will have a major refurbishment to address the deteriorating rib timbers and planking.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Hall', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Trevor Hall – Centre Manager

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
14th Richmond "Viking" Scout Boating Centre
Registered Charity 303822

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 9 - 10

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act);
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of 2011 Act:

or

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



Name: Stephen Alexander FCA

Address: 5, Cole Park View, Twickenham, TW1 1JW

Date: 28th July 2025

14th Richmond "Piking" Scout Boating Centre

Summary of Financial Activities

for the Period 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024

	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2023
Movements in Cash & Bank				
Incoming Resources				
Boating Activities & Fundraising				
- Great River Race	27,113			23,524
- Water Weekend	21,685	-		22,675
- General Boating Activities	5,185			3,571
Boating Activities & Fundraising Total	53,982	53,982	-	49,770
Other Activities				
Associate Membership	3,343	3,343		3,310
General Activities & Voluntary Income	279	279		-
Donations (inc Gift Aid)	1,050	1,050		5,211
Use of Premises - Contribution to Costs	12,170	12,170		10,146
Interest & Dividends	1,672	1,672		996
Other Income	1,516	1,516		35
Total Incoming Resources	74,013	74,013	-	69,468
Outgoing Resources				
Direct Activities				
Fundraising Expenses from Boating Activities				
- Great River Race	23,449			19,862
- Water Weekend	23,270			20,336
- Boat Repairs	9,250			2,842
- Boat Insurance	3,840			3,681
- Other Boating Activities	1,173			3,297
	60,981	60,981	-	50,017
Purchase of Assets - Boating	6,250	-	6,250	-
Purchase of Assets - Other	-			-
Premises Costs	5,740	5,740		3,917
General Activities	243	243		-
Total for Direct Activities	73,213	66,964	6,250	53,933
Overheads & Administration				
Trustees & Executives Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total Outgoing Resources	73,213	66,964	6,250	53,933
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Cash & Bank	799	7,049	(6,250)	15,535
Total Movement In Funds	799	7,049	(6,250)	15,535
Funds Brought Forward	104,000	104,000	-	88,465
Funds Carried Forward	104,799	111,049	(6,250)	104,000

Balance Sheet

	as at 31-Dec-24 £	as at 1-Jan-24 £
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Cash in Hand & at Bank	109,158	104,000
Debtors - Advance Payment made	1,687	
Total Current Assets	110,844	104,000
Current Liabilities		
Creditors - Advance Payments Received	(6,045)	
NET ASSETS	104,799	104,000
represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	111,049	104,000
Designated Funds	(6,250)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	104,799	104,000

	Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Unrestricted Funds	74,013	(66,964)	104,000
Designated Funds	-	(6,250)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	74,013	(73,213)	104,000

Signed



Treasurer
Patrick L. Ducker BSc ACIS
7th August 2025



Manager
Trevor Hall
7th August 2025

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Scouts, through Unity Insurance Services, provides insurance to cover: Public Liability, Personal Accident & Medical Expenses and Trustees Liability.

The Centre's Management Committee considers that it should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs and normal boating activities, circa £10k.

The Committee felt that it would be prudent to hold a reserve of £20k. against the possibility of an uninsurable event resulting in the loss of a boat. A further £22k is held to cover the routine replacement of equipment such as oars and PFSs.

It is planned to replace Home Counties gig "Hercules", recently retired, at a cost of c.25k. Repairs are being planned to the 120 year old lifeboat "Viking"

The Centre Management Committee has arranged a full survey of the heating and electrical system at the HQ, and remedial work is being undertaken.

The Centre holds uncommitted reserves of approximately £51k. against these provisions at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses and allows for some development.

Investment Policy

The Committee has adopted a risk adverse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only banks or building societies that are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Transactions with Related Parties

The Centre Management makes regular use of the services of Mark Edwards, who is Adviser to the Centre, to build and repair the boats. The charges involved are regularly "market tested" to ensure that Best Value is realised.

Many of the users of the services of the Centre are part of Richmond District Scouts, though no special arrangements are made.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

The Centre Management regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the Centre obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Centre's Management considers the cash flow requirements.

Plans for future periods



The new HQ was occupied from February 2012, although some parts were not completed until early 2013. The HQ has been made available to other community and charitable organisations to defray the running costs. The main focus, however, is to encourage more Scout Groups from outside the immediate area to use the facilities for short stays, whilst taking part in boating activities.

Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

Full Names

Trevor Hall

Patrick Ducker

Position

Chairman & Centre Manager
7th August 2025

Treasurer
7th August 2025