



Scouts
237th Birmingham
1st Castle Bromwich

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
2023-2024

Registered charity no 504710
Scout Association registration no 14234



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Section A – Reference and administration details

Name of Charity 237th Birmingham (1st Castle Bromwich) Scout Group

Registered Charity No 504710

Scout Association registration No 14234

Charity's principal address

Scout HQ
Brownsover Close
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
B36 9EF

Address for correspondence

Paul Brettell
Assistant Group Scout Leader
237th Birmingham Scout Group
Five Gables
School Lane
Hopwas
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B78 3AD

Email: info@237scouts.org.uk

Website: www.237scouts.org.uk

Names of Trustees who managed the charity in 2023-24

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Laura-Marie Millward	Group Lead Volunteer	From 25 th April 2023
Philip Barrie Jackson	Chair	
Ian Yeomans	Treasurer	
Paul Anthony Brettell	AGSL / GLV	
Mark Bostock		
Richard Hands		
Amelia Victoria Connolly		
Elizabeth O'Donnell		From 4 th October 2023
Justine Whittaker		From 4 th October 2023
Lewis James Millward		From 9 th October 2023
Jeffrey Cross		Until 4 th October 2023
Elaine Patricia Chaplain		Until 4 th October 2023
Lindsey Jane Harverson		Until 4 th October 2023
Keith Charles Stock		Until 4 th October 2023
Robert Cattell		Until 4 th October 2023
Derek Barnett		Until 4 th October 2023
Anthony Barnett		Until 4 th October 2023
Rachel Austin		Until 4 th October 2023
Kate Taylor		Until 4 th October 2023
David James Willetts		Until 4 th October 2023
Adrian Miles		Until 4 th October 2023
Samantha Miles		Until 4 th October 2023

Section B – Structure, governance and management

The Group'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.

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Groups.

The Group Scout Council consists of all parents, leaders and others as defined in the Group's constitution. It meets once a year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It has no Trustee responsibilities.

The Group's constitution is based on guidance from the Scout Association and is formally adopted by the Group Scout Council at the AGM.

The Group is managed by the Group's Trustee Board. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and Charity Commission Guidance. They are appointed by the Group Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Trustee Board consists of one ex-officio members, the group Lead Volunteer and up to eight elected and co-opted members, During 2023-24, it met every month, except August.

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training within the first 5 months of joining the Board. They also complete safety and safeguarding and GDPR training.

This Trustee Board exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The management of the Group's funds;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Following the 2023 Annual General Meeting, the Group reduced the number of trustees in line with Charity Commission and Scout Association guidance. Some of the existing trustees stepped down from the Board but remained as members of support teams.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group 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:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. We receive requests for the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as local churches, community groups and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. We maintain sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members, and claims for negligence etc. The Group is covered by the Scout Association's national insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. All leaders, trustees and other adults are vetted through the DBS process and are trained in safety and safeguarding in line with the requirements of the Scout Association.

Reduced income from fundraising. We rely on income from subscriptions and fundraising. We hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board could, and occasionally do, also raise the value of subscriptions to increase our income on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. We are totally reliant on volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole, there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction of financial loss.

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered. Equals cards have been introduced so that electronic transfer of funds can be made to section leaders instead of handling cash.

Section C – Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Our purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Our Scout Group

We have age specific sections, which meet at separate times in the week. (1 Squirrel Drey, 2 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub Packs and 3 Scout Troops). The Squirrel Drey is a new section for 4-6 year olds which opened in October 2022. There are two Explorer Units which meet at our headquarters and work closely with the Group.

Each section runs a balanced programme consisting of weekly meetings, with team building games and training, outside activities and visits. The sections also run camps and weekends away. These are complemented by activities and camps run at Group, District, County and national level.

We meet at our own, brick built, headquarters in Brownsover Close, Castle Bromwich.

Policies on grant making and investments

In general, we do not make grants. We will occasionally support individual members with grants for specific expeditions. Each application is considered individually by the Trustee Board.

The Group does not make investments.

Staff

The Group is run by volunteers. There are no paid staff.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that 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.

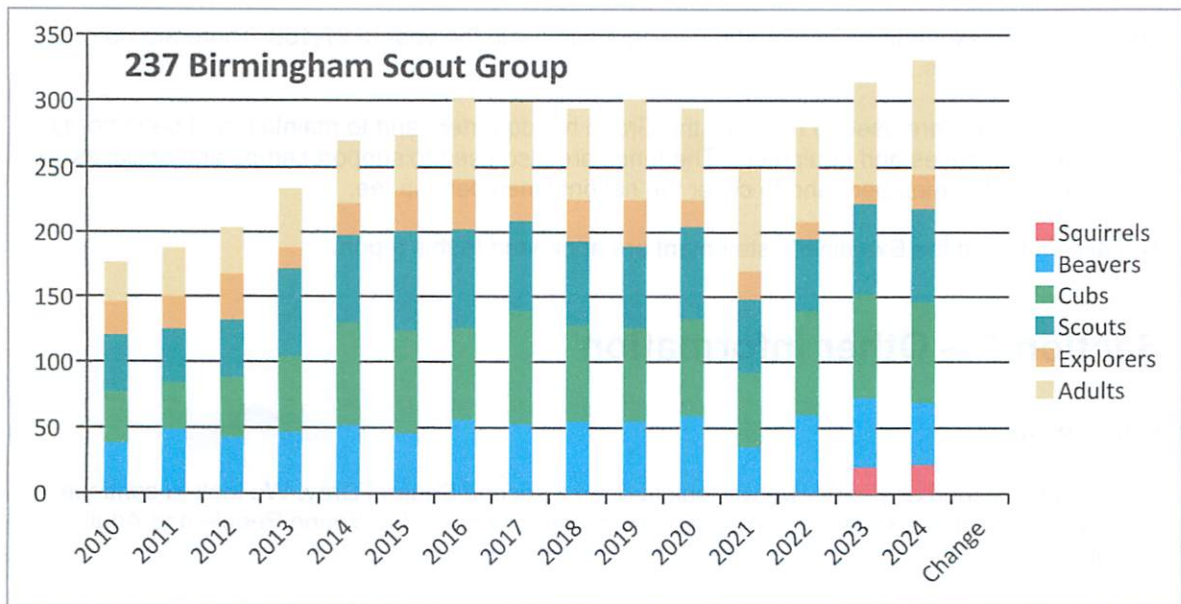
Section D – Achievements and Performance

Our first Squirrel Drey for four to six year olds, which we opened in 2022/23 is proving extremely popular. The Drey is now full and has a waiting list and a plan is to open a second drey when volunteers can be sought. For this a recruitment specific event will be considered using the current parents on the waiting list and any adults already in the group if they wish to support a younger section as well as the one they currently support.

The numbers in the other sections have continued to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic. We now have about 9% more young people than before Covid. We are currently the largest group within the Spitfire District and proud to have this status.

This chart shows the numbers recorded on the Scout Association annual census, which is completed at the end of January each year.

Explorers are officially part of District Scouting. In line with previous years, our numbers include Explorer Scouts (14-18yr olds) and their leaders which meet at the Group HQ.



We had two young people and one adult leader attending the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in August 2023 and if you saw the news, they didn't exactly get the experience we expected they would, but the young people experienced many new opportunities whilst attending the Jamboree and we enjoyed hearing about this from them when they returned.

We have continued to make improvements to our Headquarters during the year, mainly through the efforts of our volunteers and fantastic support maintenance team. We had two very large conifer trees removed from a neighbour's garden in order to provide more light to the new gardening area which is now enjoyed by all the sections.

We also do our best to support the community in Castle Bromwich. All our sections have carried out litter picks and they attended the Parish Remembrance Parade.

Section E – Financial review

Reserves Policy

Our policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. We also hold reserves to cover specific future expenditure and to allow for unexpected repairs to the building.

We held unrestricted reserves of approximately £75,116 against this at year end.

Funds in deficit

There are no funds materially in deficit.

Review of 2023-2024

The Group raises funds through quarterly subscriptions and a programme of fundraising events. The Group claims Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations where possible. The Group will apply for charitable grants to support specific projects.

The Group had receipts of £51,556 net of Scout Association membership fee (Capitation).

The Group had expenditure of £44,406 leaving a surplus in the year of £7,150. There are no outstanding liabilities.

The Group's funds are used to maintain the Group headquarters and to maintain and periodically replace the minibuses and equipment. The funds are also used to support camps and activities undertaken by the members and to cover the national membership fee.

The accounts and the Examiner's statement are appended to this report.

Section F – Other information

Future Plans

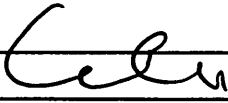

When leader resources permit, we will look to open a second Squirrel Drey. We look to continue growing the group across all sections with both the recruitment of the Young People and Adult Volunteers.

We also plan to restructure our leadership teams in line with guidance from the Scout Association, a challenge we will overcome and enable us to provide fantastic scouting to the young people within the group.

Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Laura-Marie Millward	Philip Barrie Jackson
Position	Group Lead Volunteer	Chair
Date	270824	

Charity Name 237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group		No (if any)	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start 01/04/2023	To	Period end date 31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	29108.51	-	29,109	26060
less Capitations paid on	11178.00	-	11,178	10428
Net Subscriptions	17930.51	-	17,931	15632
Gift Aid	6816.35	-	6,816	7372
Donations	4641.40	-	4,641	5395
Other Income	170.18	-	170	117
Funds Match	0.00	-	-	250
Fund Raising	6324.81	-	6,325	4936
Covid Grants	0.00	-	-	0
Jamboree		0.00	-	500
Explorers Camp		-127.10	- 127	300
Solar	2488.72		2,489	2178
Building	0.00		-	0
Camps/Activities	12789.40		12,789	17992
Sub total	51161.37	- 127	51,034	54672
Bank Interest	521.47	-	521	6
Total receipts	51,682.84	- 127	51,556	54679
Payments				
Camps/Activities	16753.14	-	16,753	23835
Training	0.00	-	-	0
Utilities	5588.17	-	5,588	4288
Van Costs	3303.98	-	3,304	1777
Insurances	5611.56	-	5,612	5151
Repairs & Maintenance	6668.29	-	6,668	4228
Uniforms & Badges	2486.14	-	2,486	1541
equipment	3462.32	-	3,462	3359
Misc	532.28	-	532	513
Overseas Trip		-	-	0
Building	0.00	-	-	0
Total payments	44405.88	-	44,406	44691
of receipts/(payments)	7276.96	- 127	7,150	9987
Transfers between funds			-	
Cash funds last year end	67840	7,262	75,102	
sh funds this year end	75116.50	7,135	82,252	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
			to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash funds	Bank Current Account	9,794.51	7,135	16,930
	Bank Deposit Account	23496.18	-	23,496
	32 Day Notice Account	20275.07	-	20,275
	Fixed Notice Account	20000.00	-	20,000
	Equals Card/Cash	1,550.74	-	1,551
	Total cash/Equals funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>		75116.50	7,135
		OK	OK	
Other monetary assets	Details	Current value	Current value	
			-	-
Investment assets	Details		-	-
			-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Current value	Current value	Total
	Land & Buildings	152,480	-	152,480
	Motor Vehicles	20,000	-	20,000
	Trailer/Solar Panels	10,500	-	10,500
	Scouting Equipment	35,000	-	35,000
	Furniture & Fittings	7,000	-	7,000
	Total	224,980	-	224,980
Total Assets		300,097	7,135	307,232
Liabilities	Details		Amount due	When due
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name	Date of approval



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

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Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

237 CASTLE BROMWICH SCOUT GROUP CASTLE BROMWICH BIRMINGHAM

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me and confirm them to be a true and accurate record of the financial actions of the 237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group for the period 01/04/23 to 31/03/24

Signed H. Lawrence
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date 27/6/2024

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor

H. Lawrence ACA
Chartered Accountant

S. Lawrence ACCA
Certified Chartered Accountant