



Scouts

**237th Birmingham
1st Castle Bromwich**

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
2024-2025

Registered charity no 504710
Scout Association registration no 14234



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

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
Group Lead Volunteer
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 2024-25

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Laura-Marie Millward	Group Lead Volunteer	
Philip Barrie Jackson	Chair	
Ian Yeomans	Treasurer	
Paul Anthony Brettell	Group Lead Volunteer (2)	
Lewis James Millward	Youth Trustee	
Mark Bostock	Compliance	
Richard Hands	Maintenance	
Justine Whittaker	Finance	
Lizzie O'Donnell	Fundraising	April – September 2024
Katie Millward	Fundraising	January – March 2025

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 member, namely the group Lead Volunteer plus seven appointed trustees, with one vacancy. Up to September 2024, the Board met every month, except August but since then it has changed to bi-monthly meetings.

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 teams that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors, other than those who are elected.

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 reasonably new section for 4-6 year olds which opened in October 2022. In addition, there are two Explorer Units catering for 14-18 year olds, 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.

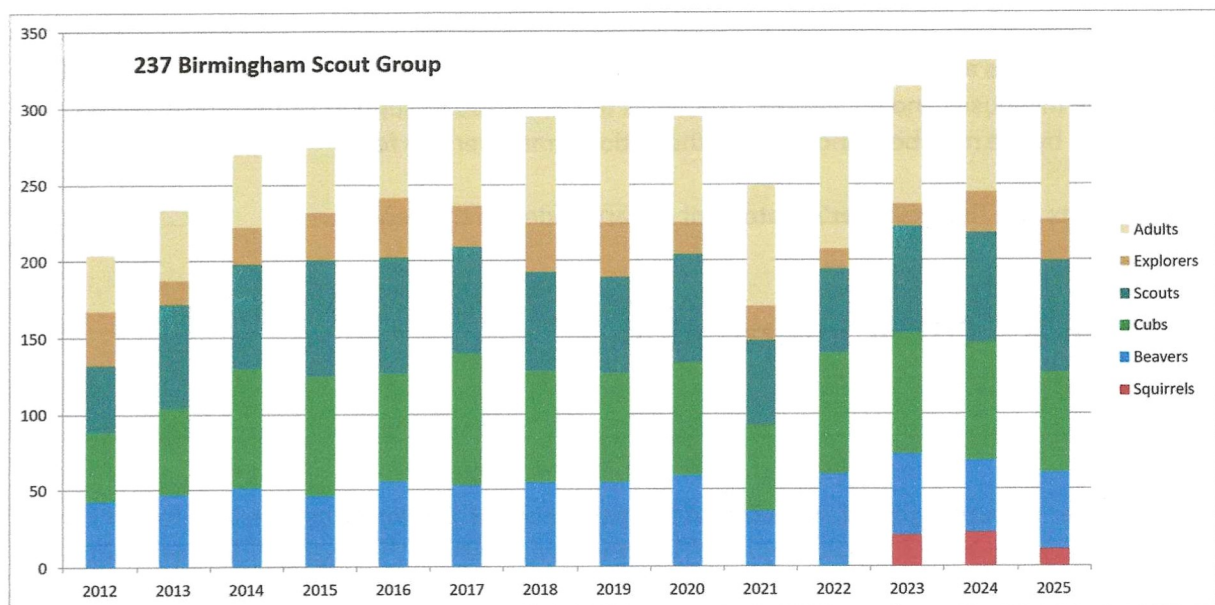
Section D – Achievements and Performance

Whilst we remain the largest group within the Spitfire District and are proud to have this status, our overall numbers have reduced, which for some sections can be accounted for through movements of our people across the sections.

The below chart shows the numbers recorded on the Scout Association annual census, which is completed at the end of January each year and reflects the challenges we face as our adult volunteer numbers have dropped. This appears to be a general trend amongst voluntary organisations at this time.

We have also seen a drop in numbers for the Squirrel and Cub section, which can be accounted for due to the constraints placed upon us in respect of the ratio of Adult Volunteers to young people. The good news is that we have approximately 24 on the waiting list for Squirrels and the Cubs still have an average of more than 20 per section.

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



We have continued to make improvements to our Headquarters during the year, mainly through the efforts of our volunteers and fantastic maintenance support team. Upgrades have been made to the toilet facilities; minor groundworks and a fallen tree removed in the rear garden area; new camping equipment purchased, with older equipment donated to less fortunate groups within our District.

We also do our best to support the community in Castle Bromwich. All our sections have carried out litter picks and once again 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 £82,314 against this at year end.

Funds in deficit

There are no funds materially in deficit.

Review of 2024-2025

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 £49,662 net of Scout Association membership fee (Capitation).

The Group had expenditure of £42,464 leaving a surplus in the year of £7,198. 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

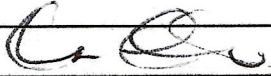

When leader resources permit, we will look to open a second Squirrel Drey. We look to continue growing the group across all sections with both the recruitment of the Young People and Adult Volunteers.

We have started to restructure our leadership teams in line with guidance from the Scout Association and whilst this remains a challenge, we are making good progress that enables 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	15/09/25	

	Charity Name		No (if any)	
	237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group			
	Receipts and payments accounts			
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
		01/04/2024		31/3/2025
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	29312.50	-	29,313	29109
less Capitations paid on	11832.00	-	11,832	11178
Net Subscriptions	17480.50	-	17,481	17931
Gift Aid	6580.49	-	6,580	6816
Donations	2139.93	-	2,140	4641
Other Income	267.85		268	170
Funds Match	120.26		120	0
Fund Raising	4517.66	-	4,518	6325
Covid Grants	0.00	-	-	0
Jamboree		0.00	-	0
Explorers Camp		0.00	-	-127
Solar	2371.01		2,371	2489
Building	0.00		-	0
Camps/Activities	14683.24		14,683	12789
Sub total	48160.94	-	48,161	51034
Bank Interest	1501.07	-	1,501	521
Total receipts	49,662.01	-	49,662	51556
Payments				
Camps/Activities	20325.94	-	20,326	16753
Training	310.00	-	310	0
Utilities	5093.59	-	5,094	5588
Van Costs	1261.80	-	1,262	3304
Insurances	5103.50	-	5,104	5612
Repairs & Maintenance	4999.19	-	4,999	6668
Uniforms & Badges	1617.81	-	1,618	2486
Equipment	3040.72	-	3,041	3462
Misc	711.72		712	532
Overseas Trip		-	-	0
Building	0.00		-	0
Total payments	42464.27	-	42,464	44406

Net of receipts/(payments)	7197.74	-	7,198	7150
Transfers between funds			-	
Cash funds last year end	75117	7,135	82,252	
Cash funds this year end	82314.24	7,135	89,449	
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total Funds to nearest £
Cash funds	Bank Current Account	15598.20	7,135	22,733
	Bank Deposit Account	23804.77	-	23,805
	32 Day Notice Account	20777.14		20,777
	Fixed Notice Account	20690.41		20,690
	Equals Card/Cash	1443.72	-	1,444
	Total cash/Equals funds	82314.24	7,135	89,449
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	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		307,294	7,135	314,429

	Details		Amount due	When due
Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name	Date of approval
			Pamela Jackson	15/9/21



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

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Stechford
Birmingham B33 8BB
Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk

237 CASTLE BROMWICH SCOUT GROUP

CASTLE BROMWICH BIRMINGHAM

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the 237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group for the period 01/04/24 to 31/03/25.

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

Date 20/8/25

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor

H. Lawrence ACA
Chartered Accountant

S. Lawrence ACCA
Certified Chartered Accountant